



# eDNA Biomonitoring in Galveston Bay

- **Dr. Yasmina Shah Esmaeili** - Invisible traces, big discoveries:  
Using eDNA to map marine biodiversity (30 minutes)
- **Jaelyn Rodriguez** - The Gulf eDNA Network: a budding collaborative for eDNA research in the Gulf (30 minutes)
- **Dr. Guilherme Corte** - Hidden Life on Texas Shores: Using eDNA to Reveal Coastal Biodiversity (20 minutes)
- **Panel discussion** (10 minutes)

A forensic investigator in a white protective suit is crouching in a crime scene, examining a dark object on the floor. The scene is dimly lit with several yellow evidence markers placed around. A yellow crime scene tape with the text "CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS" is stretched across the foreground, partially obscuring the investigator. The background is dark and out of focus, showing what appears to be a doorway or a window.

**CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS**

# CSI:MIAMI



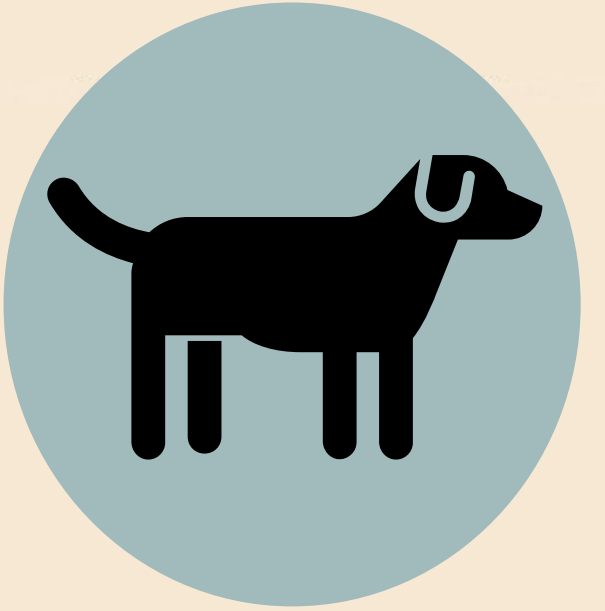




**YES, I KNOW I'VE GOTTEN  
HAIR ALL OVER THE COUCH...**

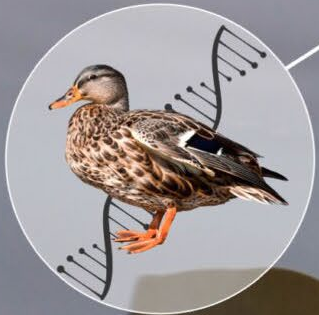


**IT'S CALLED 'FUR'NITURE,  
ISN'T IT?**

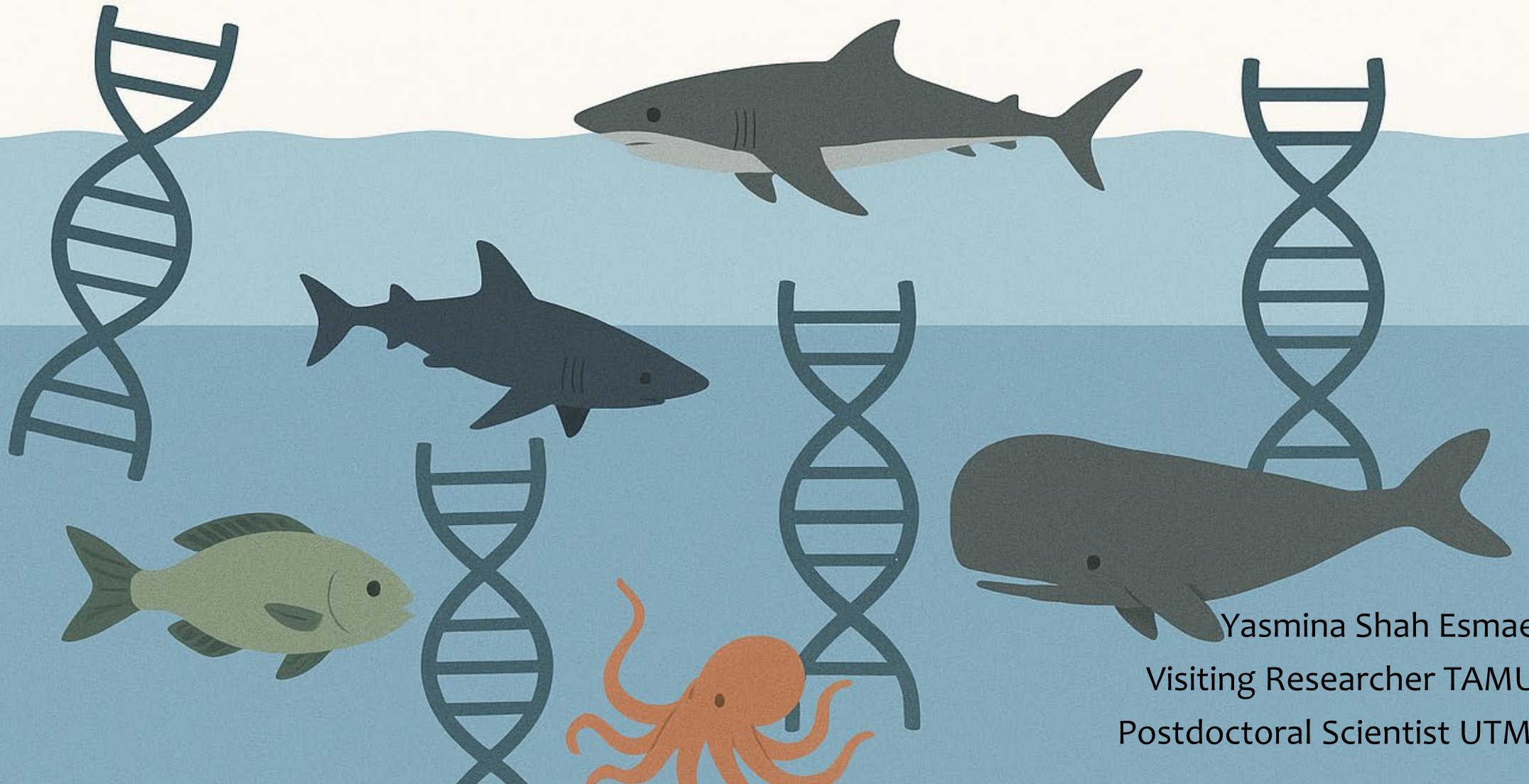






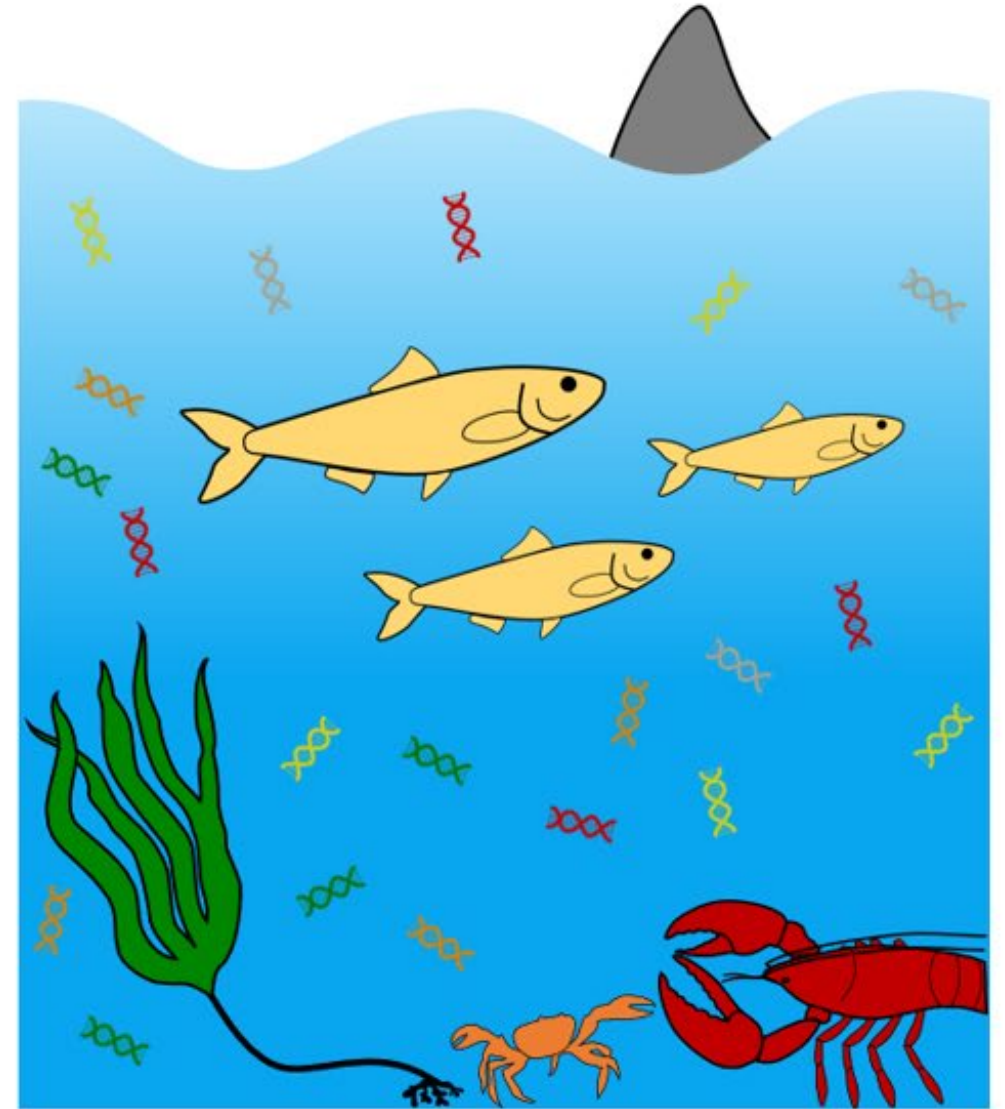
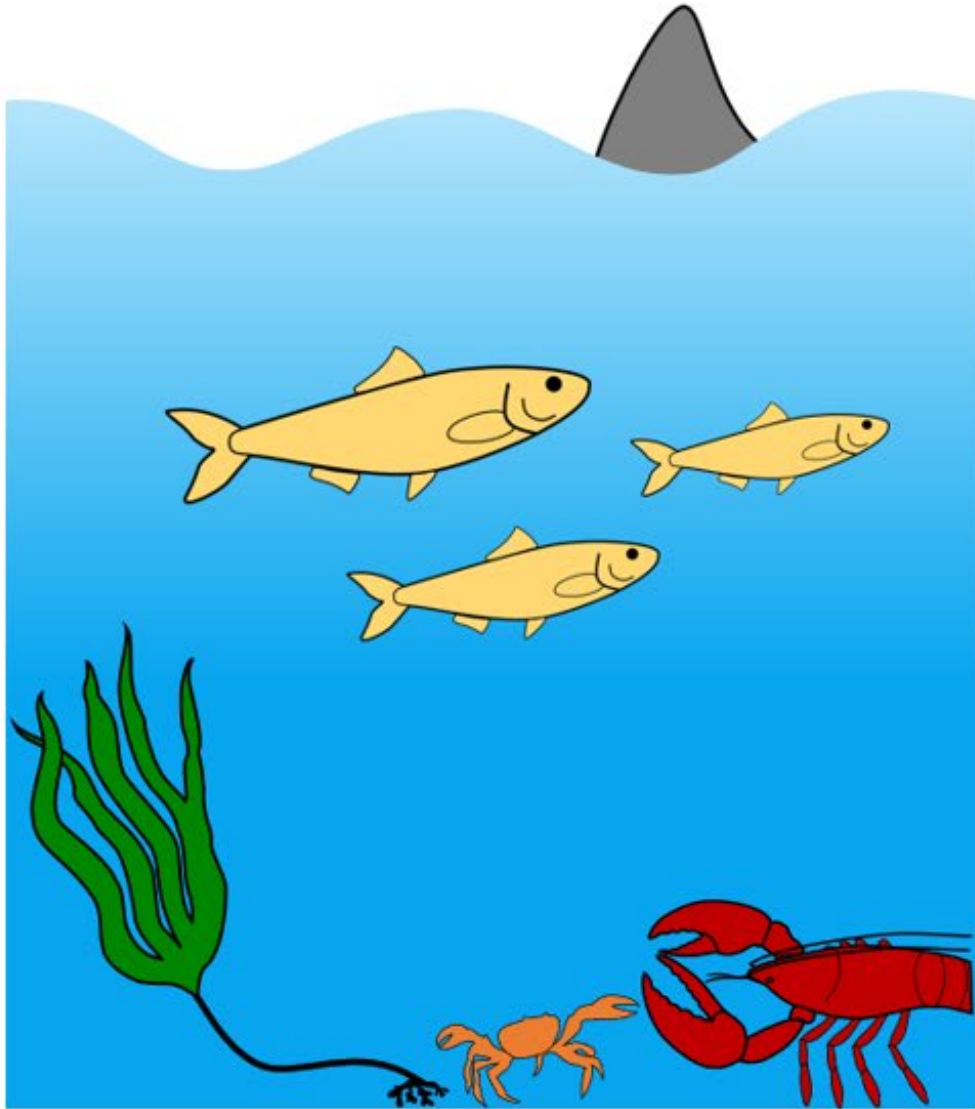


# Invisible traces, big discoveries: Using eDNA to map marine biodiversity

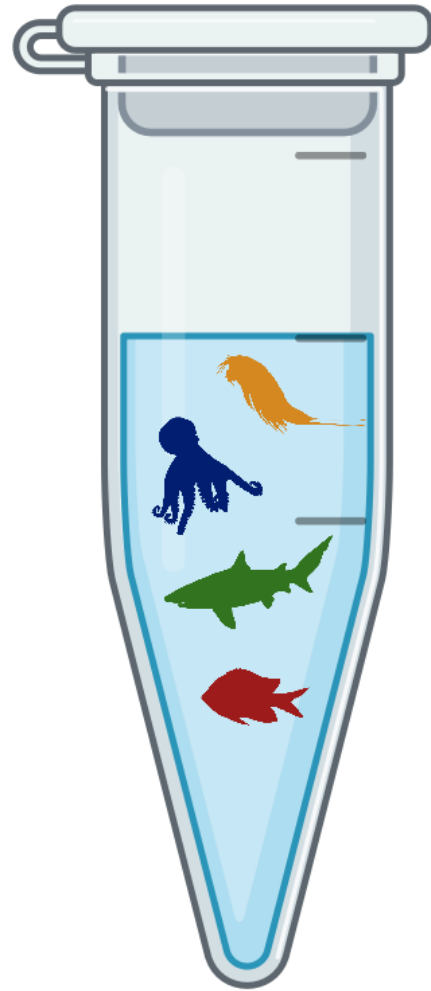


Yasmina Shah Esmaili  
Visiting Researcher TAMUG  
Postdoctoral Scientist UTMSI

# Using eDNA to assess biodiversity

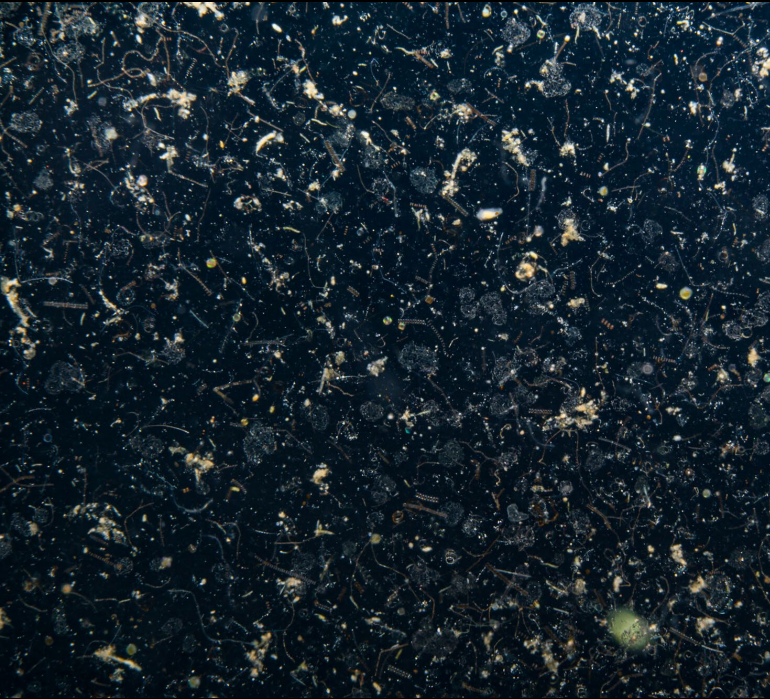


# DNA SOUP!









# What about everything you can't see?



Photos: Frank Baensch

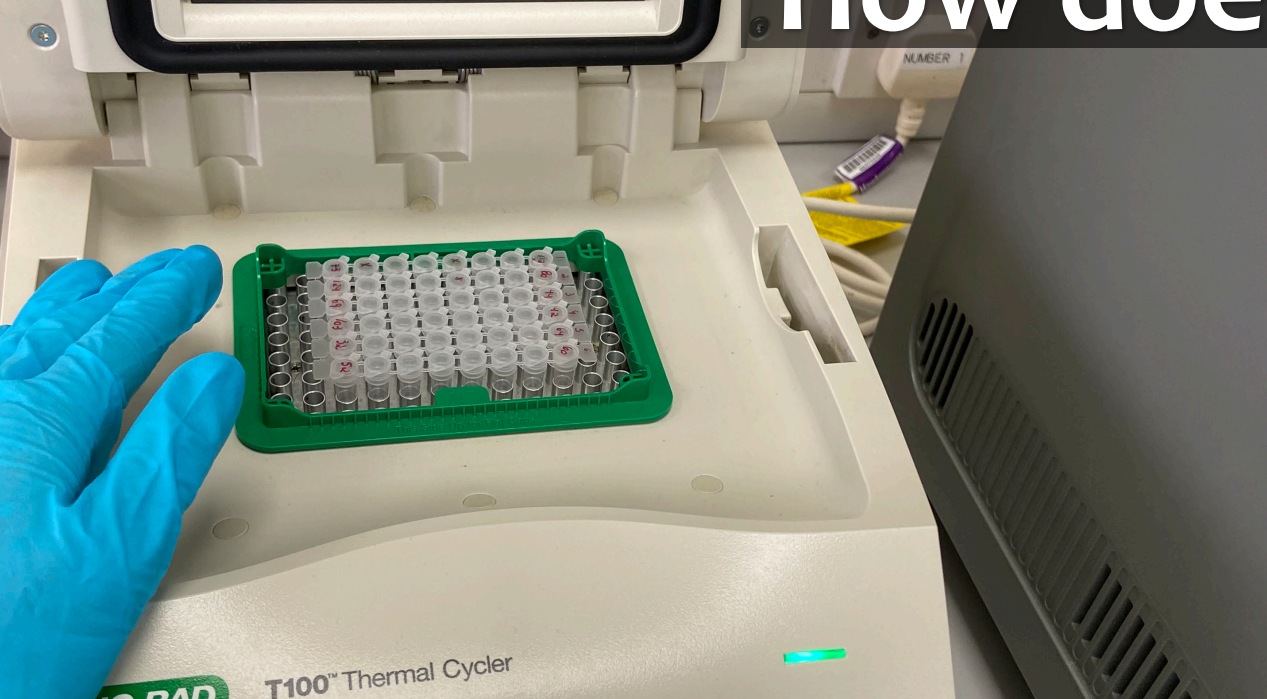


## eDNA advantages

-  Non-invasive method
-  Sensible to capture low abundance species
-  Powerful to identify rare and endangered species
-  Large scale monitoring

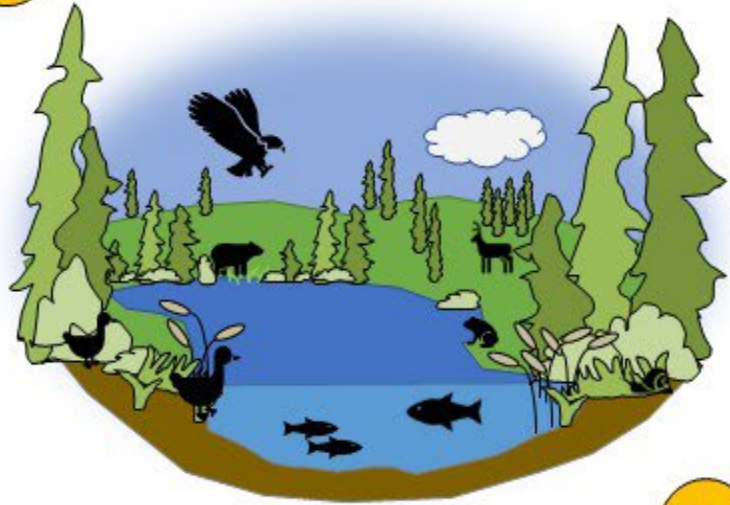


# How does it work?





1 DNA released to the environment



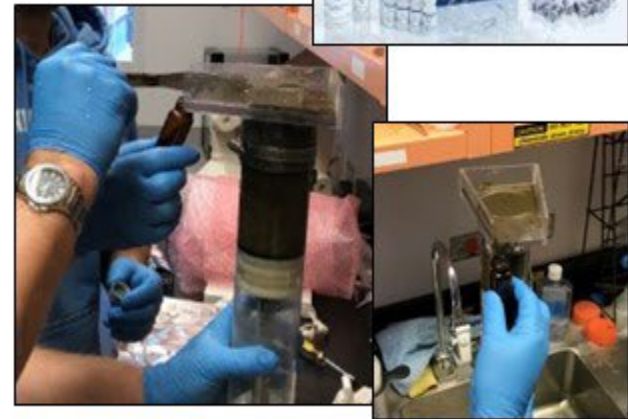
DNA sequences are unique



Collect the sample



Extract DNA



From sediment

5 Sequence it



NextSeq 5000 DNA Sequencer



Thermal Cycler



6 Species ID

eDNA barcoding and bioinformatics

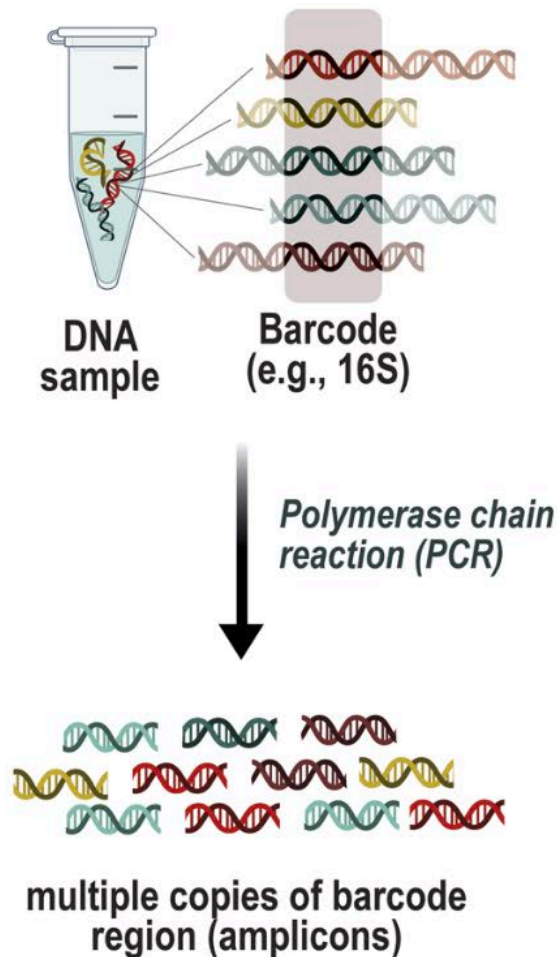


```

RLA0_METVA  --HIDAKSEHKIAPWKEIEFNALKLLKSNVIALIDHMEYPAVLOEIRDK
RLA0_METJA   ---METKVKAHVADPKIEEYKTLKGLIKSKPVVAIYDMDVDPADLOEIRDK
RLA0_PYRAB   -----MAHYAEWKKEVEELANLIKSPVIALYDSSMPAYPLSQMRRL
RLA0_PYRHO   -----MAHYAEWKKEVEELAKLIKSPVIALYDSSMPAYPLSQMRRL
RLA0_PYRFU   -----MAHYAEWKKEVEELANLIKSPVIALYDSSMPAYPLSQMRRL
RLA0_PYRKO   -----MAHYAEWKKEVEELANLIKSPVIALYDVAQVYAPPLSKMRDK
RLA0_HALMA   HSAESERKTYEIPERKQEEVDATVEMIESYESVGVYNTAGIPERDLODMRRD
RLA0_HALYO   HSESEVRQTEVIPONKREEYDELVDIESEYESVGVYVAGIPERDLOSMRRE
RLA0_HALSA   HSAEEQRTEEPERKQEVAEVLDLLETDSVGVYNTGIPERKOLDMRRG
RLA0_THEAC   -----MKEYSQQKELYNETIRIKASRSVAIVDAGIRIROIQDIRGX
RLA0_THEYO   -----MRKINDKKEIYSELAIDITKSKAVAIYDIXGVREIROMDIRAK
    
```

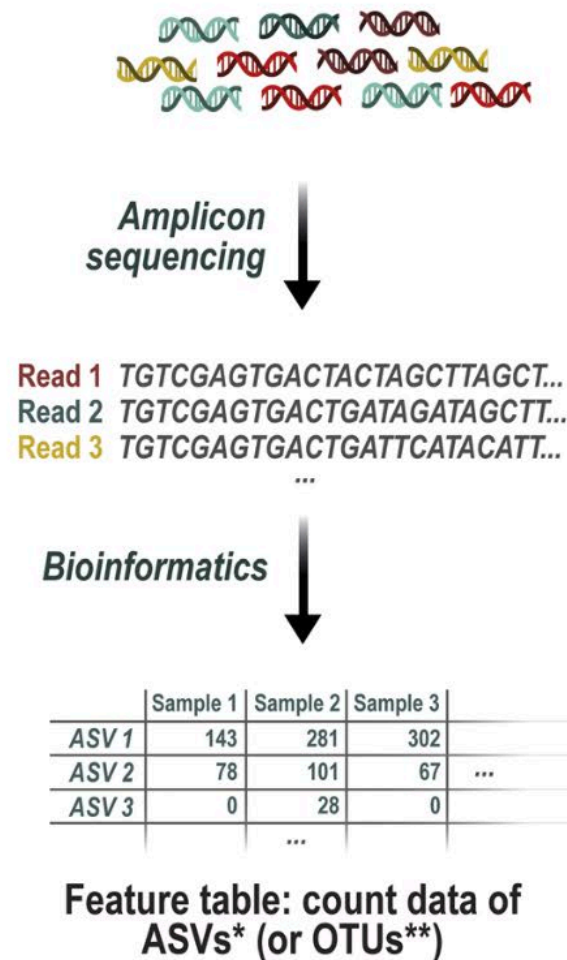
1

## Amplification



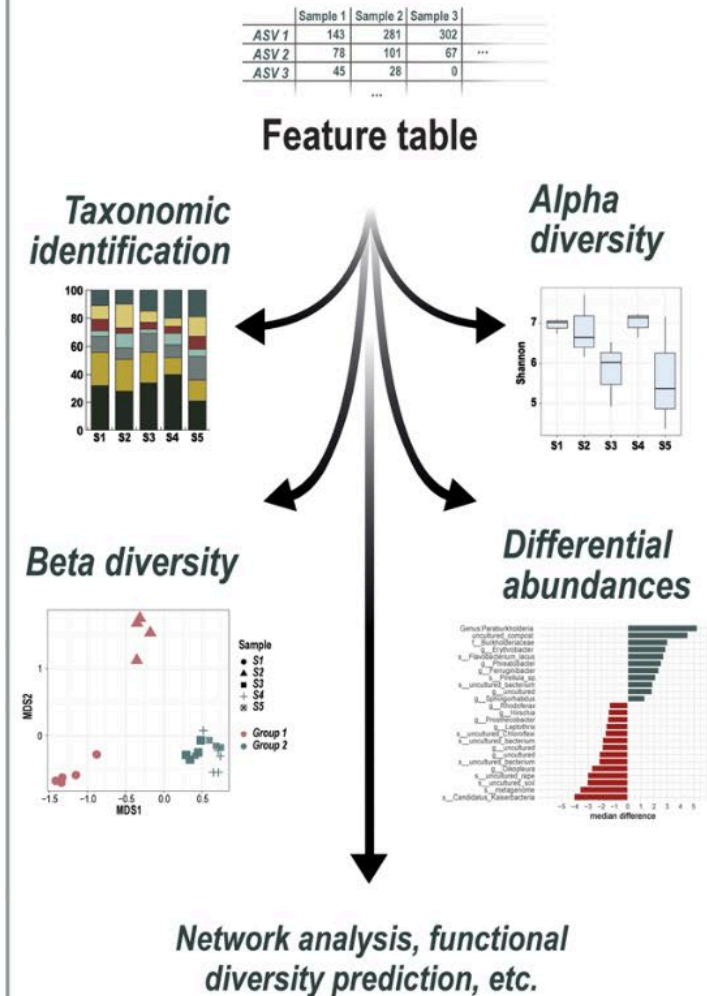
2

## Sequencing & Bioinformatics



3

## Data Analysis

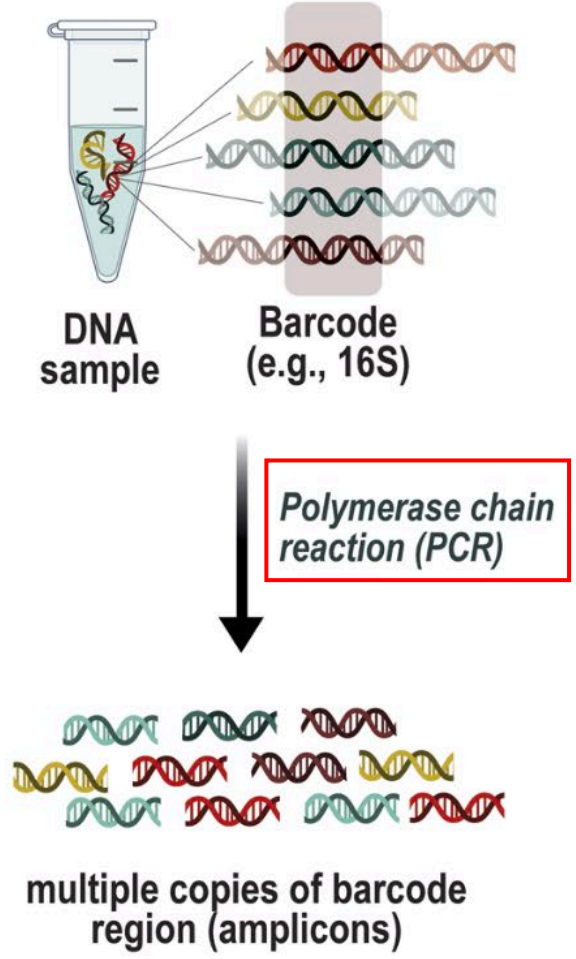


\* Amplicon Sequencing Variants (ASVs): biological sequences in the sample prior to the introduction of amplification and sequencing errors.

\*\*Operational Taxonomic Units (OTUs): clusters of reads that differ by less than a fixed sequence dissimilarity threshold, most commonly 3%.

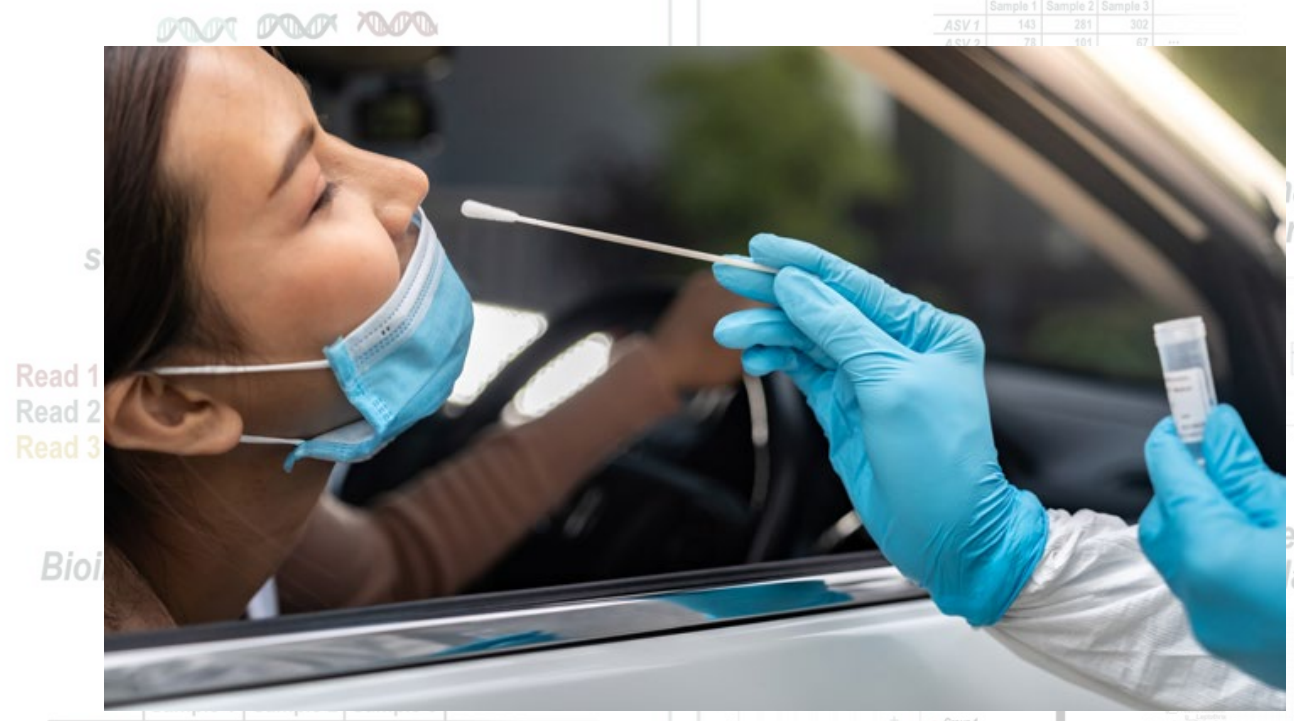
1

### Amplification



2

### Sequencing & Bioinformatics



ASV 1	143	281	302	
ASV 2	78	101	67	...
ASV 3	0	28	0	
	...			

Feature table: count data of ASVs\* (or OTUs\*\*)

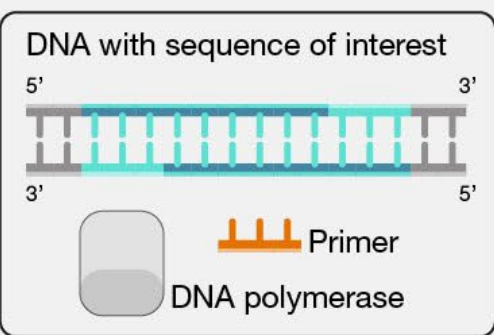
3

### Data Analysis



\* Amplicon Sequencing Variants (ASVs): biological sequences in the sample prior to the introduction of amplification and sequencing errors.  
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# Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

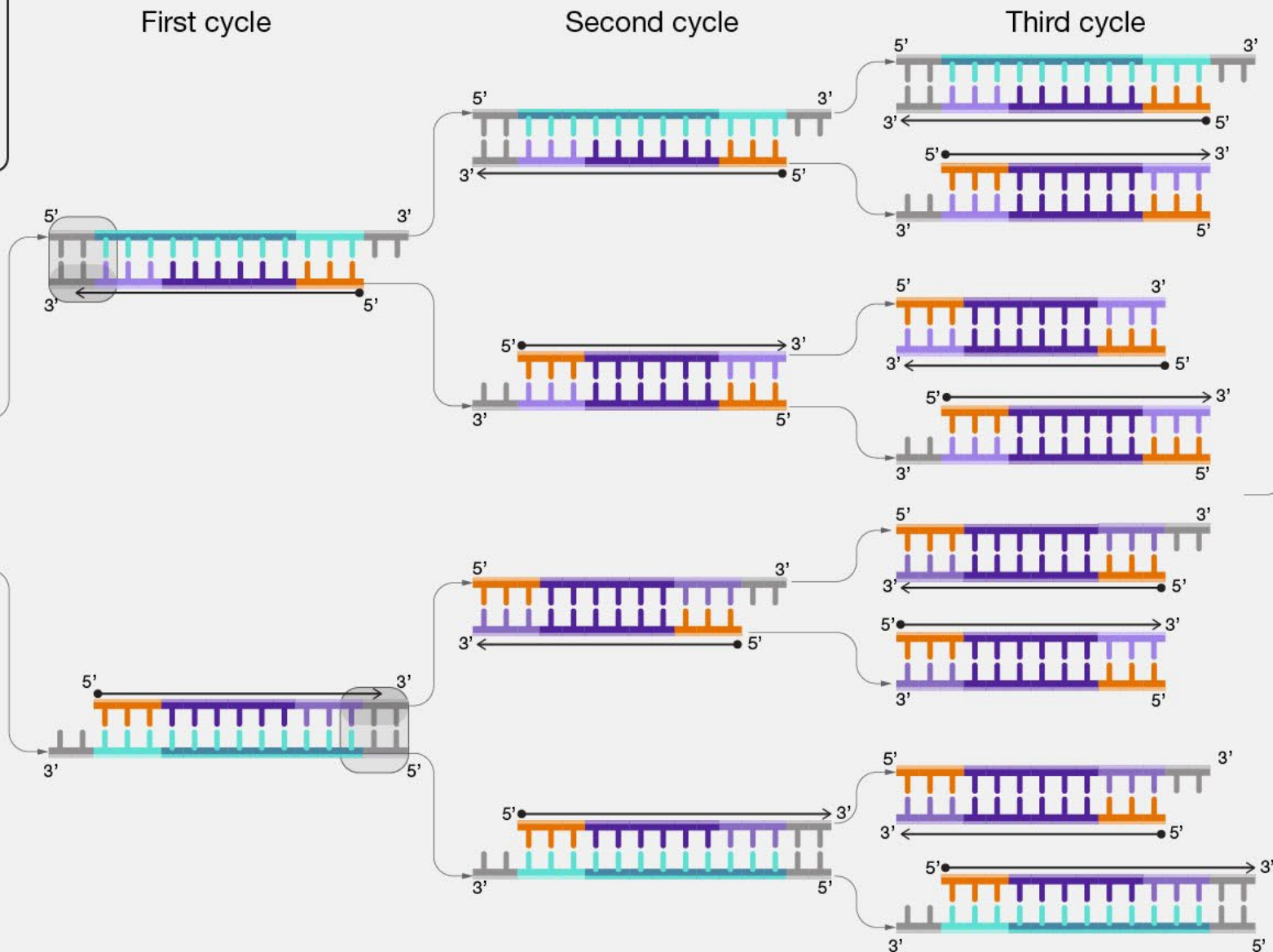
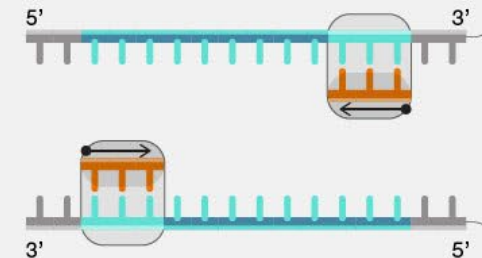


First cycle

Second cycle

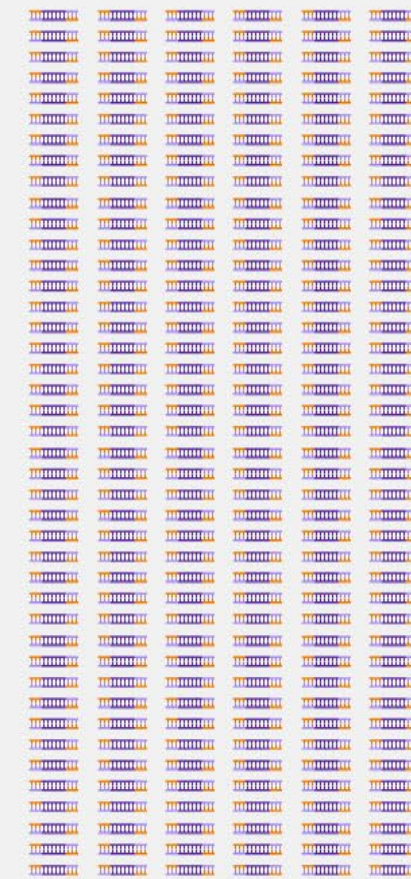
Third cycle

Denature and anneal primers

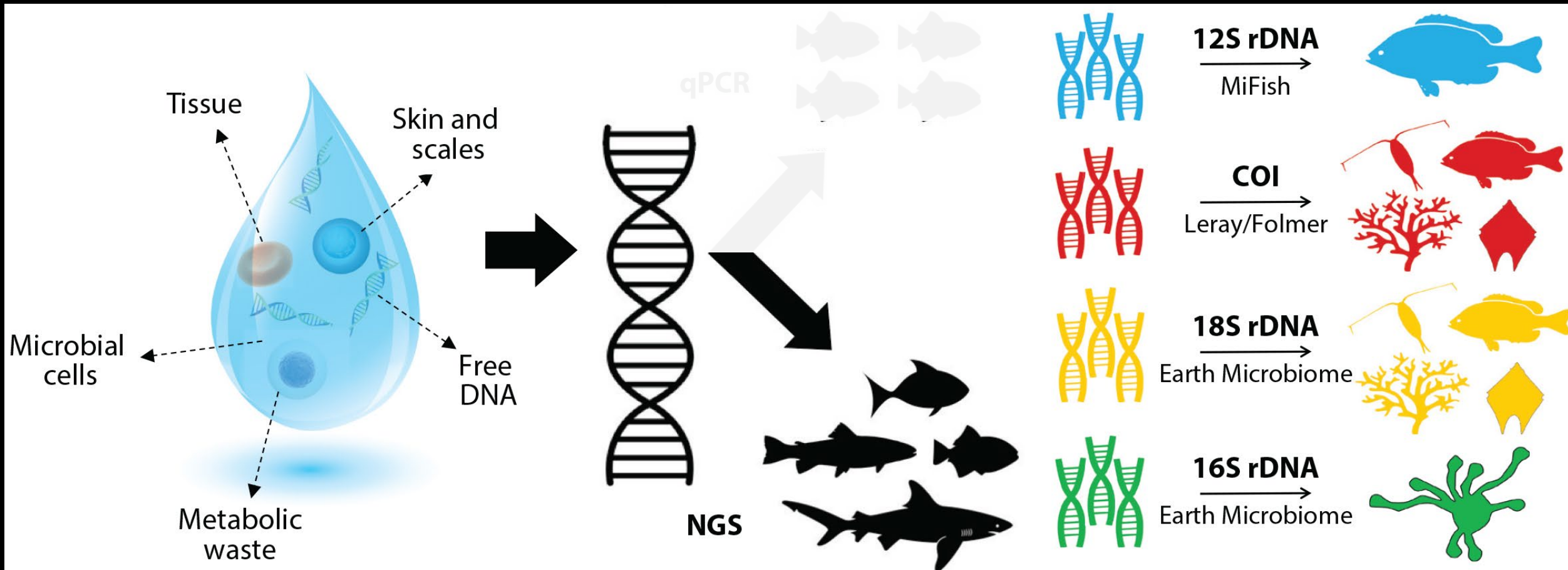


20 to 30 cycles

Millions of copies

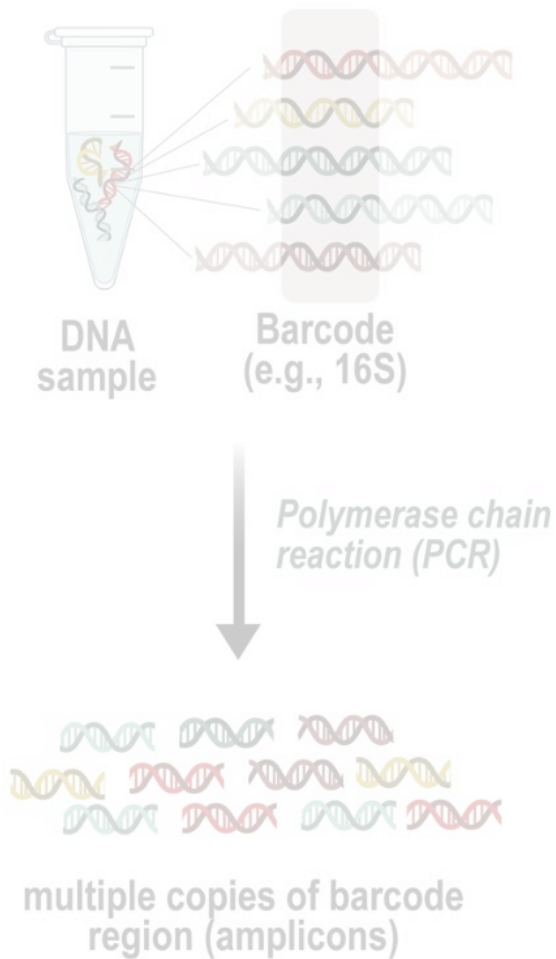


# Environmental DNA metabarcoding



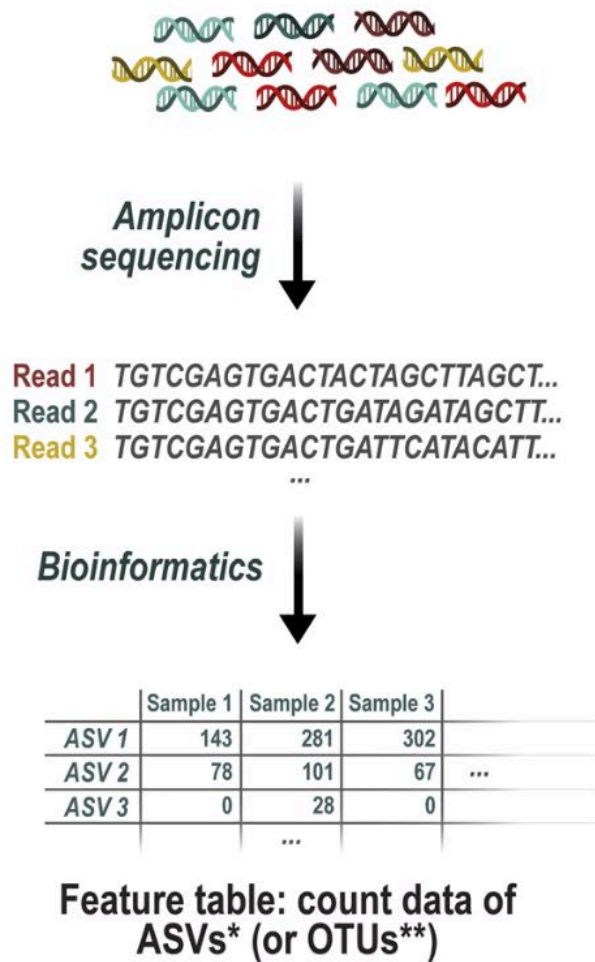
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## Amplification



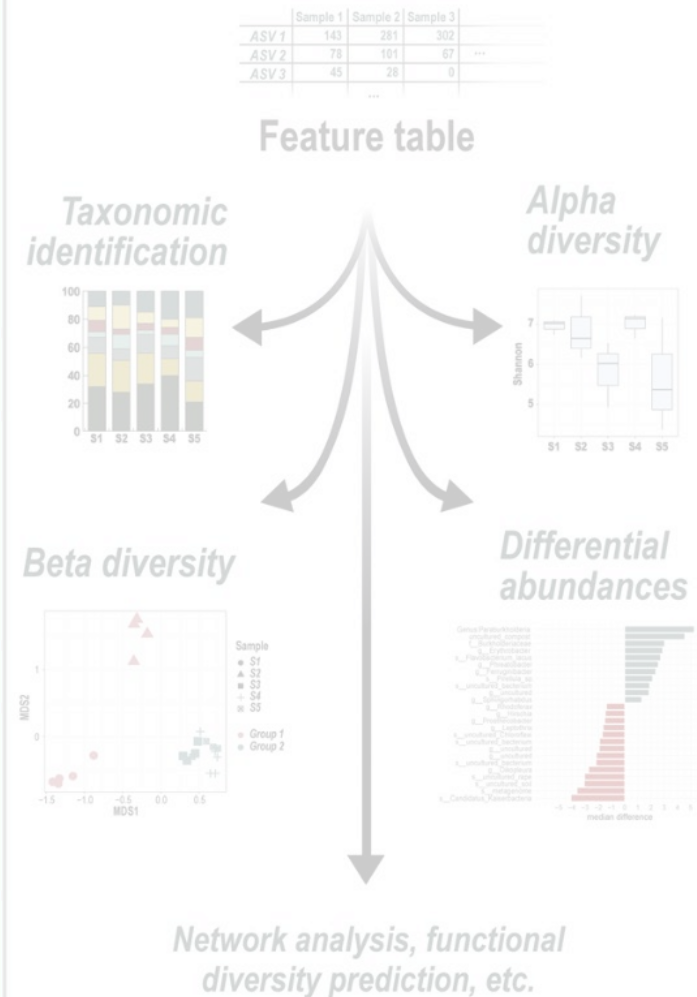
2

## Sequencing & Bioinformatics



3

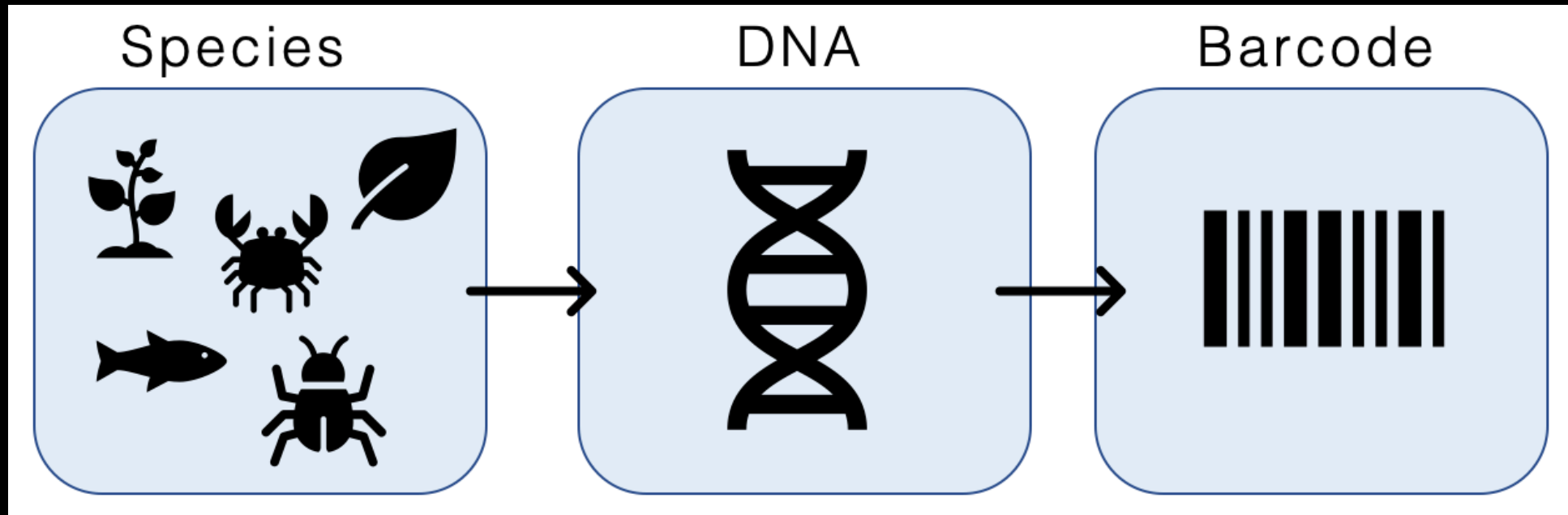
## Data Analysis



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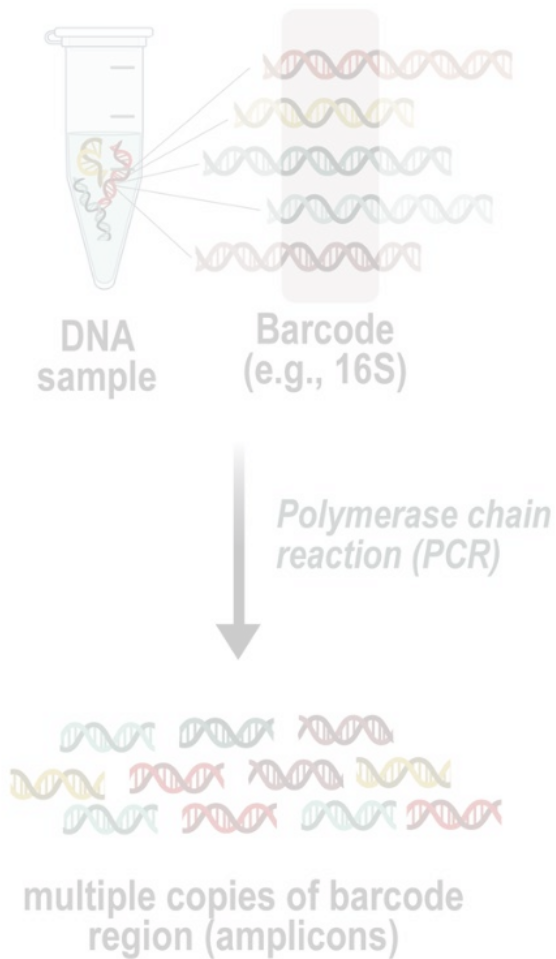
**A reference database is like a dictionary of known DNA sequences linked to known species**



**No match  $\neq$  no species**

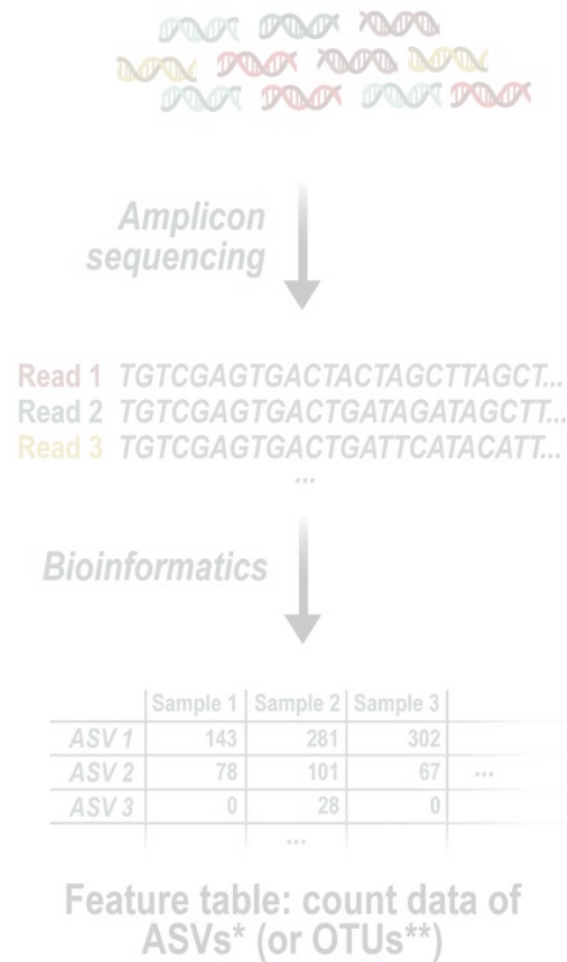
1

## Amplification



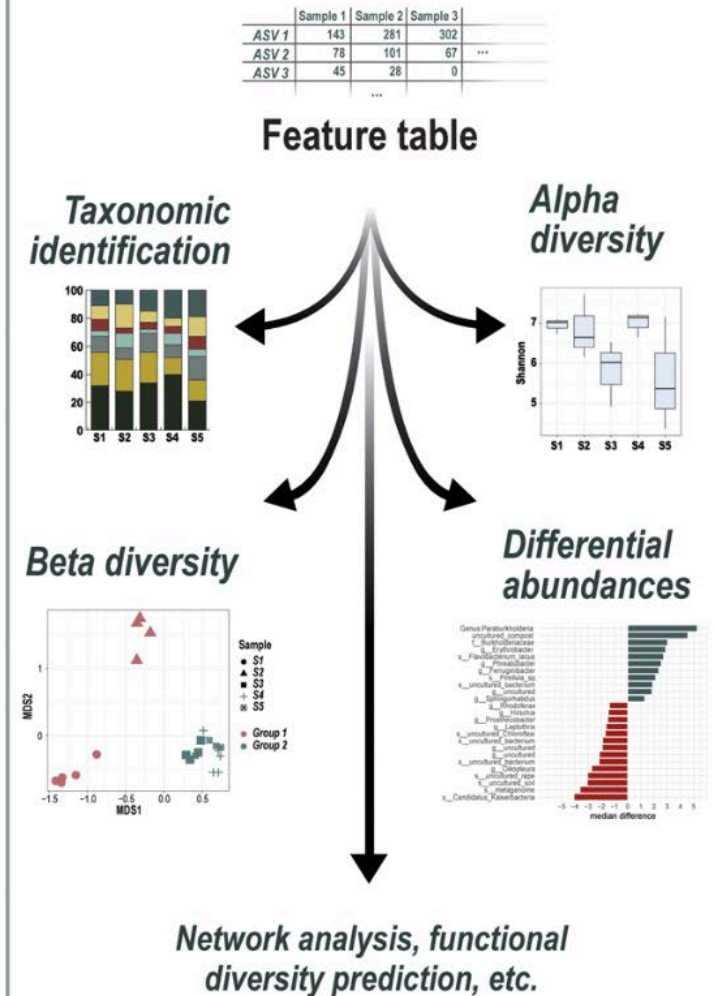
2

## Sequencing & Bioinformatics



3

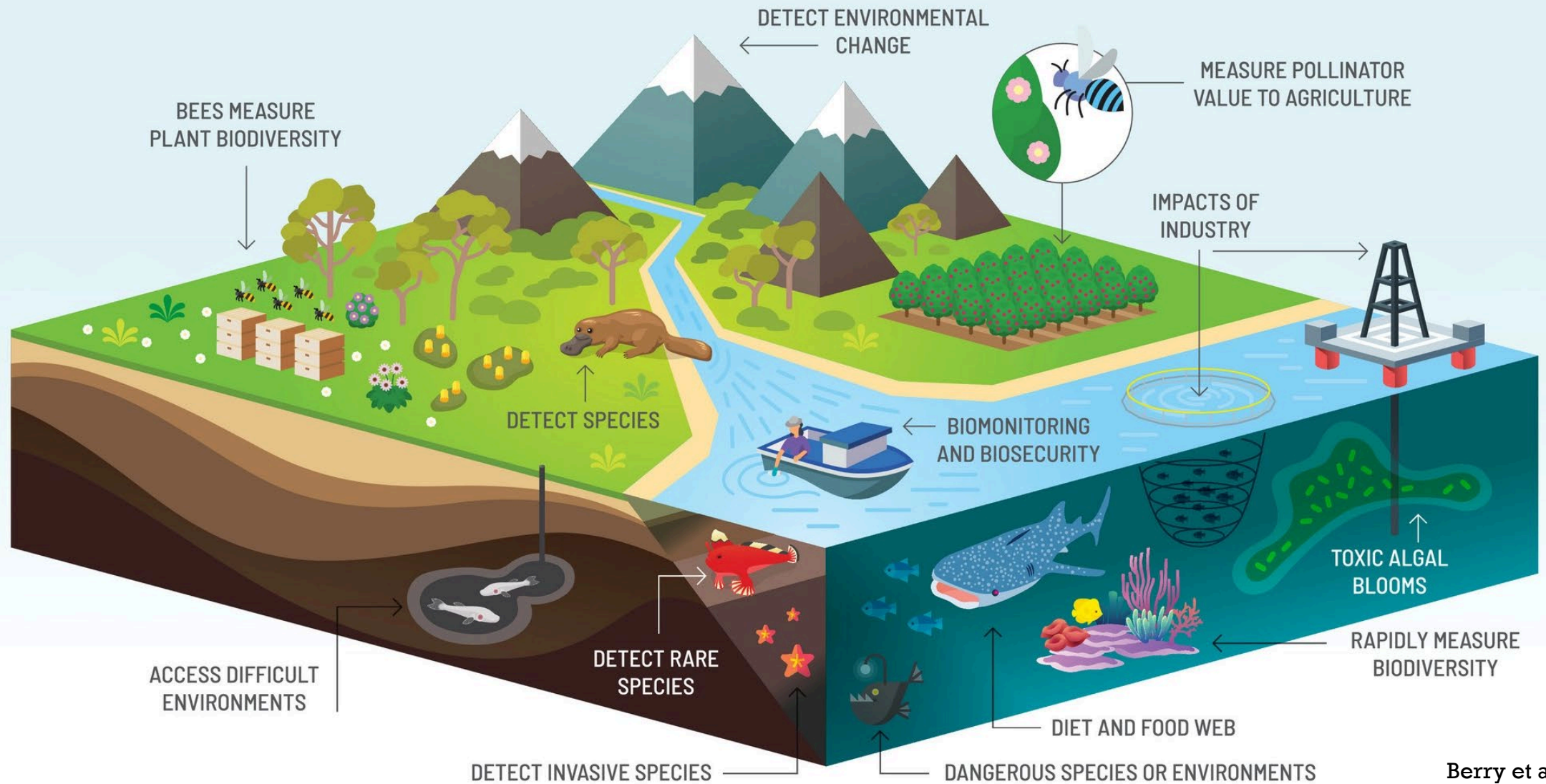
## Data Analysis



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# Applications of **environmental DNA** (eDNA) in the environment



# eDNA biodiversity records to user

List

SPECIES	RECORD		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Search for biodiversity in a place



EVERYDAY CITIZEN



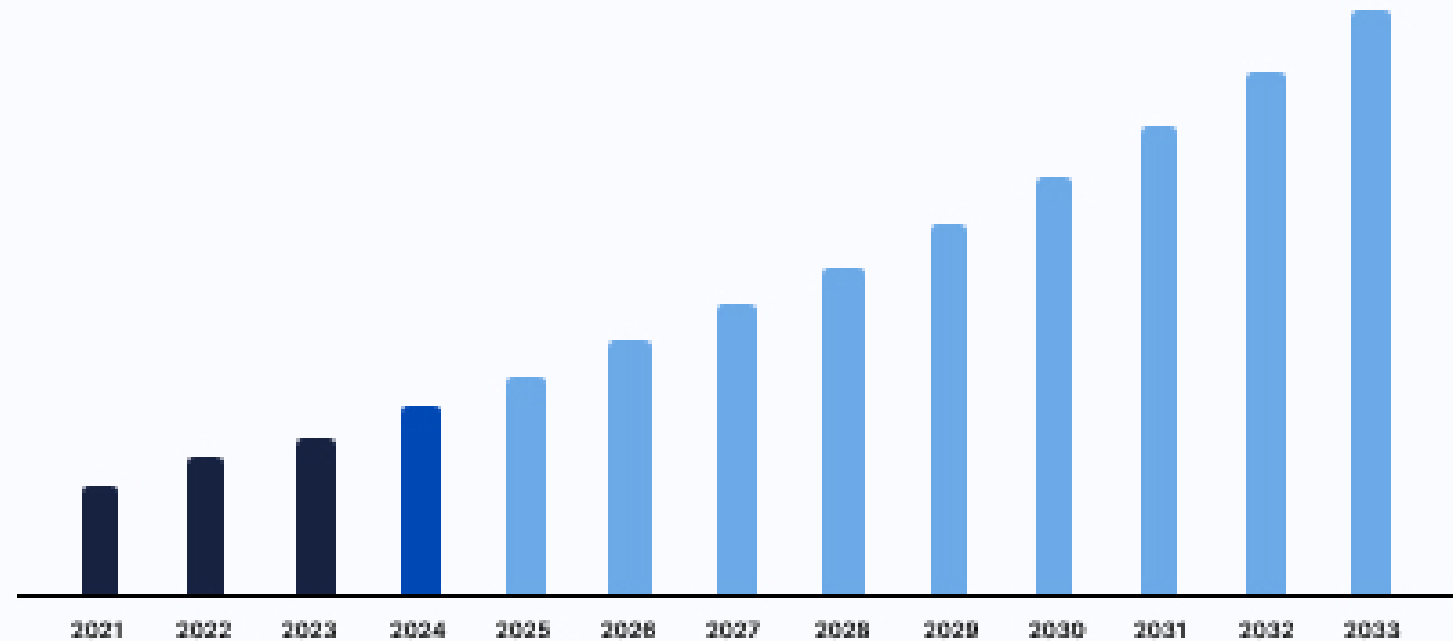
DECISION MAKERS



# NATIONAL AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTAL DNA STRATEGY

# DNA Sequencing Market

Forecast 2025-2033



Market Size in 2024

**USD 14.88 billion**

**17.62%**

CAGR (2025-2033)

Market Size in 2033

**USD 74.89 billion**

**THERE IS ALWAYS SOMEONE**



**WILLING TO DO IT CHEAPER**

**What are the limitations of eDNA?**



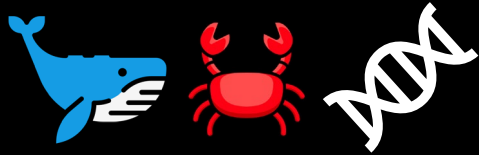
# What are the limitations of eDNA?



## Detection $\neq$ Abundance

- PCR stochastic/bias
- Different shedding rates
- eDNA stability vs degradation

# What are the limitations of eDNA?



## Detection ≠ Abundance

- PCR stochastic/bias
- Different shedding rates
- eDNA stability vs degradation



## Contamination & degradation:

- Environmental conditions
- Sample preservation
- Streamlined protocols

# What are the limitations of eDNA?



## Detection ≠ Abundance

- PCR stochastic/bias
- Different shedding rates
- eDNA stability vs degradation



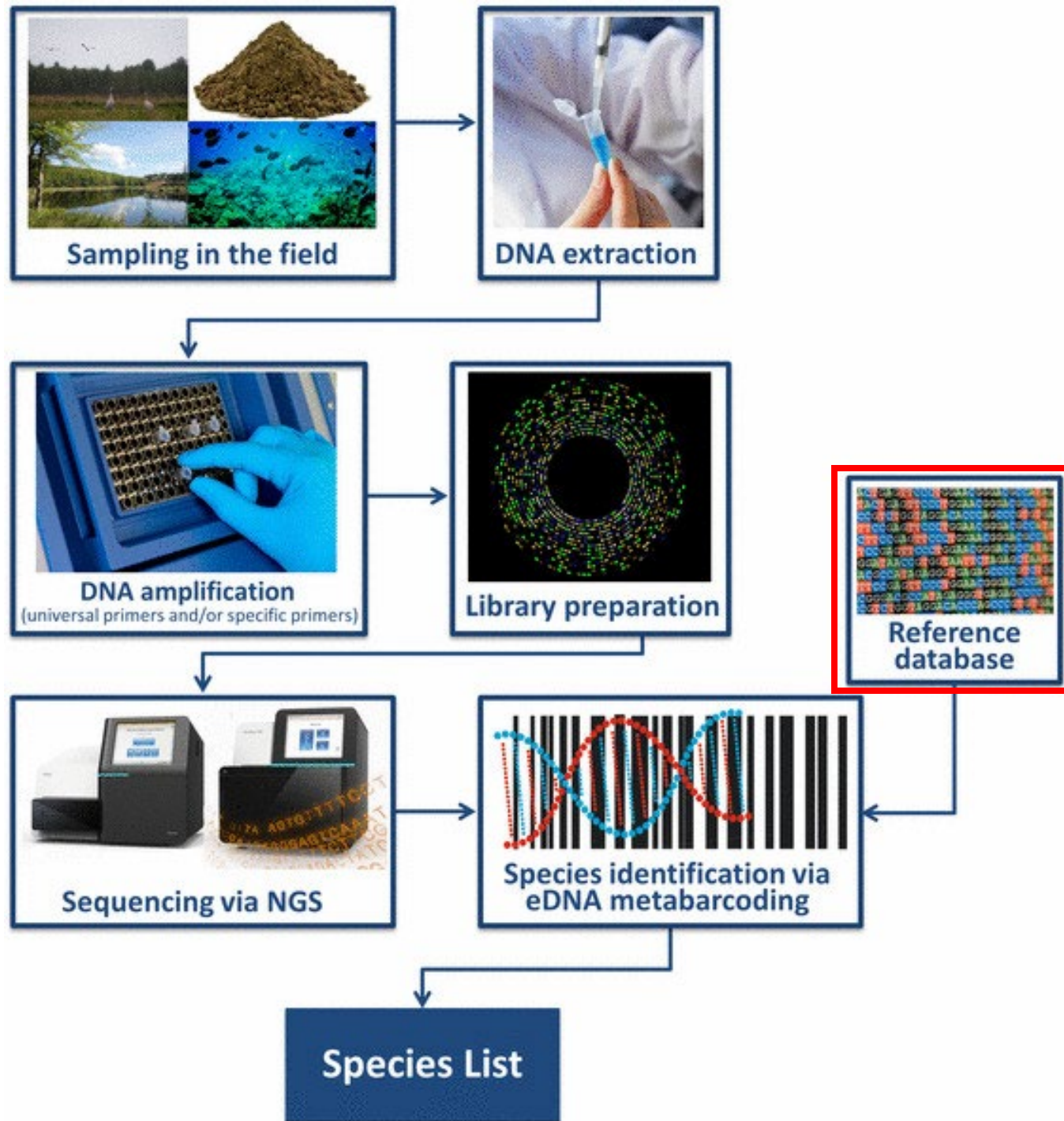
## Contamination & degradation:

- Environmental conditions
- Sample preservation
- Streamlined protocols



## Reference database gaps

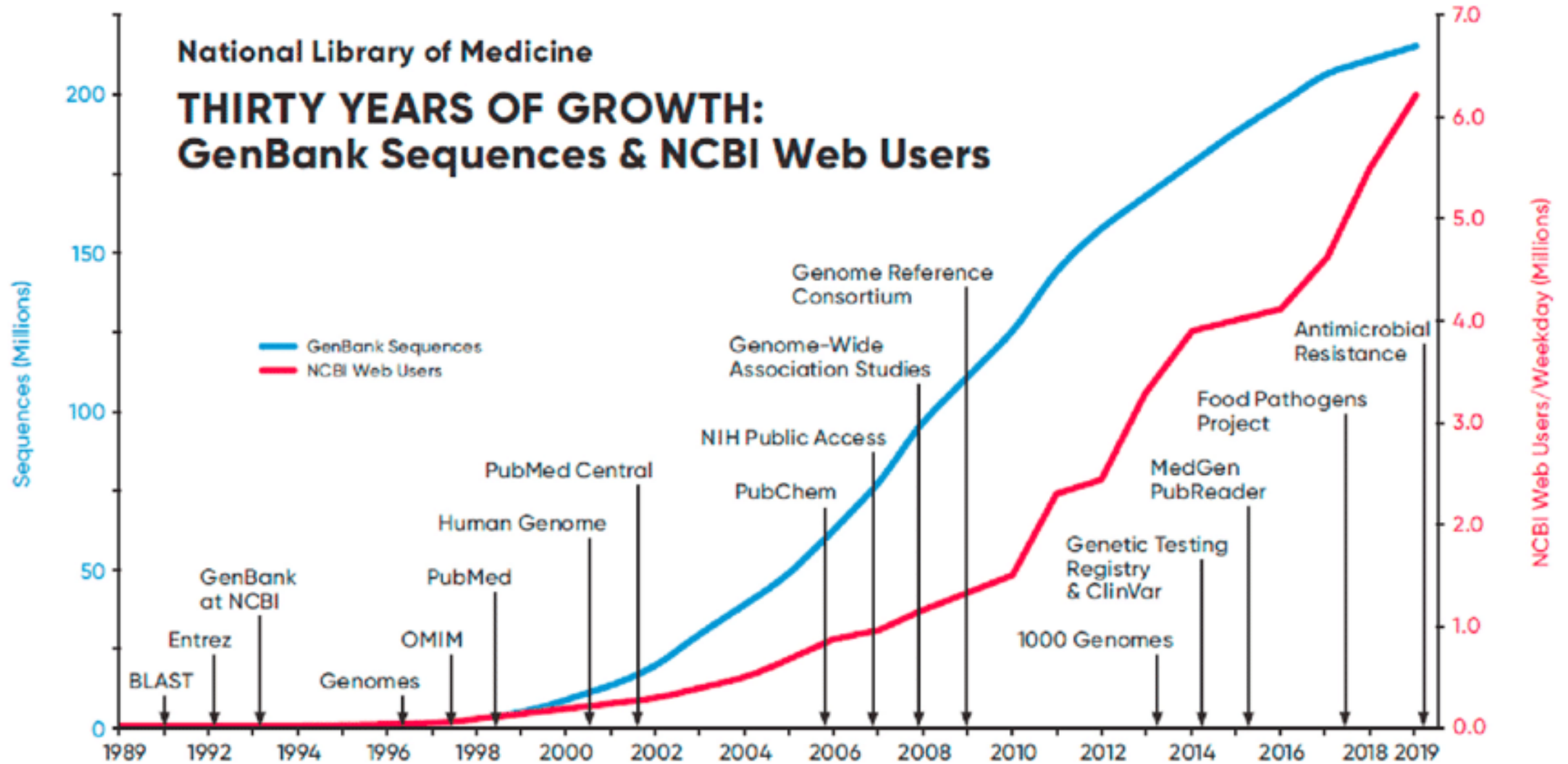
- Barcoding is limited in some groups
- Erroneous sequences
- Low representation of other markers





National Library of Medicine

# THIRTY YEARS OF GROWTH: GenBank Sequences & NCBI Web Users



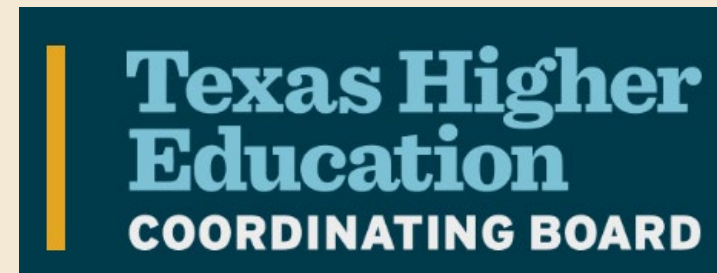


Local  
knowledge

# THANK YOU!



[yshahesmaeili@tamu.edu](mailto:yshahesmaeili@tamu.edu)  
[yshah@utexas.edu](mailto:yshah@utexas.edu)



# GULF eDNA NETWORK

A REVIEW OF PROGRESS SINCE GEN'S  
FOUNDING SUMMER OF 2025

JAELYN RODRIGUEZ  
Texas A&M University at Galveston





**The Gulf eDNA Network was founded by a collaborative group of early to mid-career scientists at Texas A&M University at Galveston and the University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas.**

# THE GULF eDNA NETWORK TEAM



Dr. Sheila Kitchen



Dr. Yasmina Shah Esmaeili



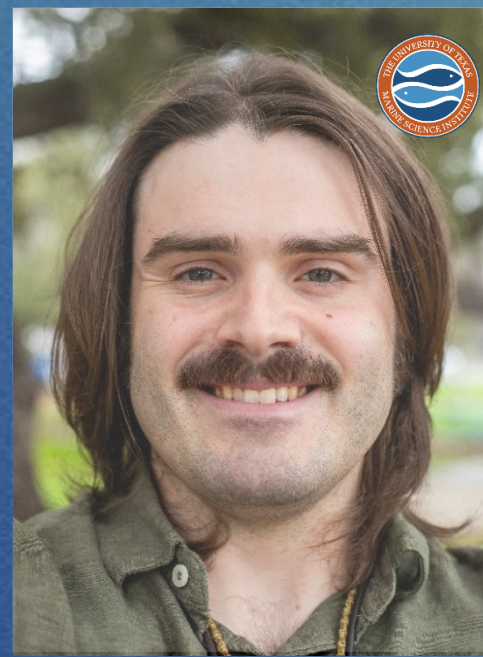
Dr. Jordan Casey



Jaelyn Rodriguez



Ingrid Bunholi



Lance David Malcom Jr.



Marissa Kordal

**United by a shared commitment to  
biodiversity monitoring and  
conservation, our goal is to connect  
researchers across disciplines and  
institutions to advance  
environmental DNA (eDNA)  
research in the Gulf of Mexico.**

# eDNA ON THE RISE

## Non-Destructive

Non-disruptive ecosystem sampling

## Versatile

Flexible applications from lab to field

## Innovative

Improvements in analysis accuracy

## Collaborative

Global use eases research co-ops



# eDNA ON THE RISE



# Challenges



No standardized  
eDNA protocol

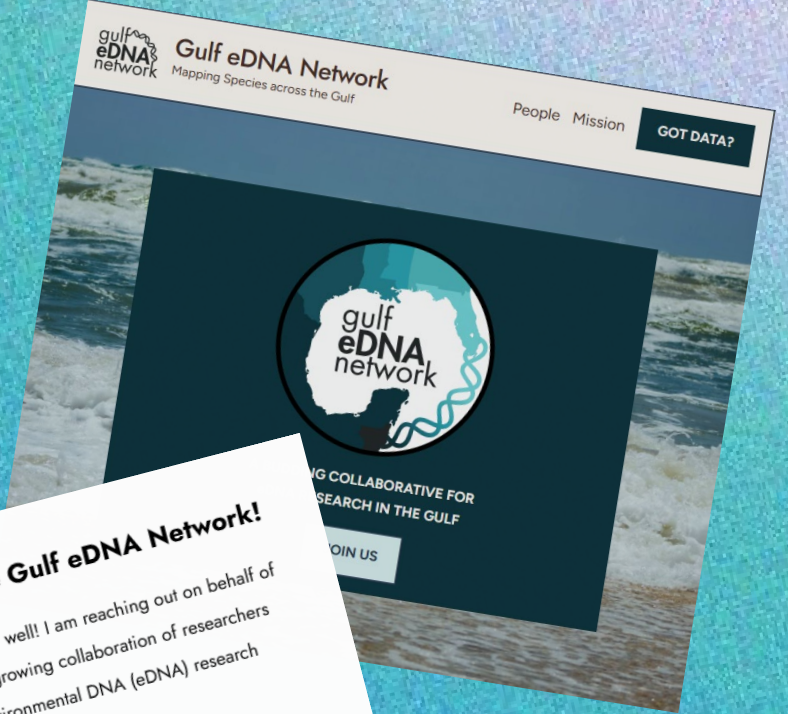


No Region-Specific  
Reference Library



No eDNA-Based  
Network for the Gulf

# The Network



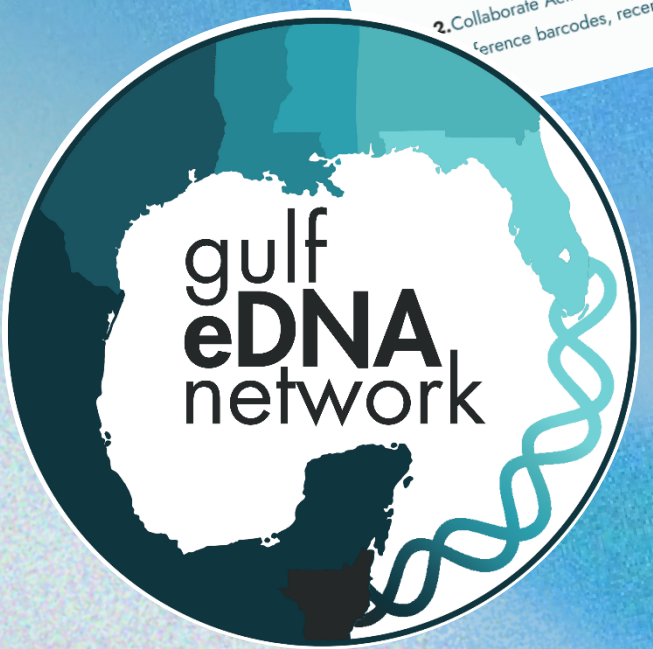
**Invitation to join the Gulf eDNA Network!**

I hope this message finds you well! I am reaching out on behalf of the Gulf eDNA Network, a growing collaboration of researchers dedicated to advancing environmental DNA (eDNA) research across the Gulf region.

We are currently expanding our network and would be delighted to include you in our efforts. Whether you're actively conducting eDNA research in the Gulf or are simply interested in contributing to regional initiatives, we'd love to connect.

There are a couple of ways to get involved:

1. Join the Network: Stay connected with a community of researchers working on eDNA across the region. Receive updates on collaborative opportunities, events, and shared resources.
2. Collaborate Actively: Share species lists, reference barcodes, recent publications, and shared resources.



**JOIN THE NETWORK**  
a budding collaborative for eDNA research in the Gulf

**connect**  
join a growing network of eDNA researchers across the Gulf

**collaborate**  
form new partnerships and share data, tools, and resources

**cultivate**  
expand your research program and support new eDNA researchers in the community

**contact us!**

gulf eDNA network  
gulf-edna-network.org  
gulf.edna.network@gmail.com



 TAMUG

 UTMSI

# 102 MEMBERS

**4 COUNTRIES**  
**11 STATES**  
**55 UNIVERSITIES**  
**or ORGANIZATIONS**



**102**  
**MEMBERS**



102  
MEMBERS







## **connect**

Join a growing network  
of eDNA researchers



## **collaborate**

Form new partnerships across  
labs, institutions, and regions



## **cultivate**

streamline research with  
our reference library



**Compile** a comprehensive species list for the Gulf



**Close** gaps in existing reference databases



**Generate** DNA barcodes for underrepresented taxa



**Provide** a regional reference library for the Gulf



**Create** a platform to share these resources

# STEPS TO SUCCESS



## Compile Species Lists

- Retrieve information from online databases
- Organize classification and source information

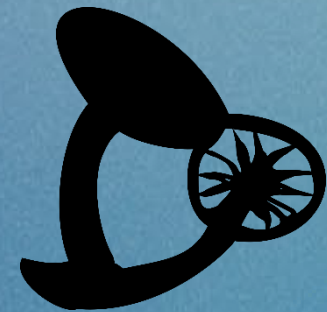


## Conduct Gap Analysis

- Identify underrepresented groups in databases to identify priorities for sequencing

# Compile Species List

# WHY A SPECIES LIST?

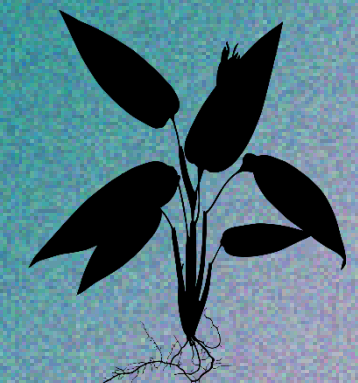
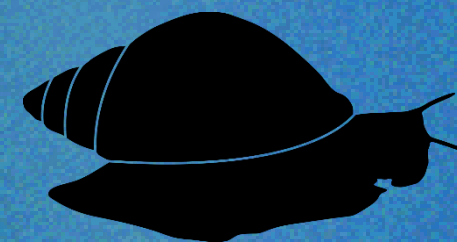
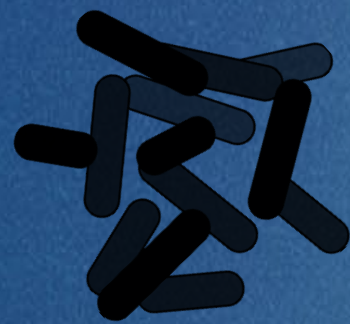


**GOAL:**

**IDENTIFY UNDER-REPRESENTED**

**GoM SPECIES**

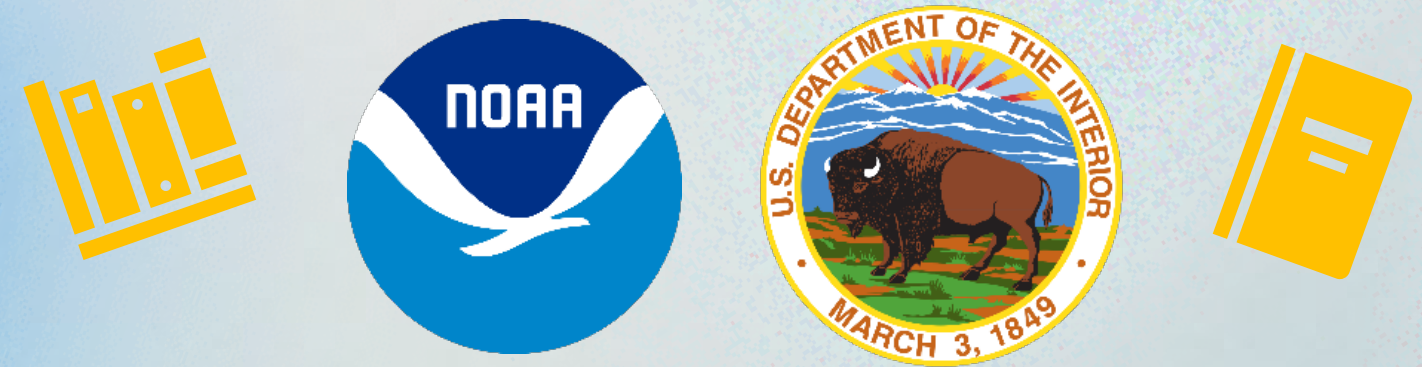
**IN GENOMIC DATABASES**



# DATABASES USED FOR SPECIES SEARCH



## LITERATURE





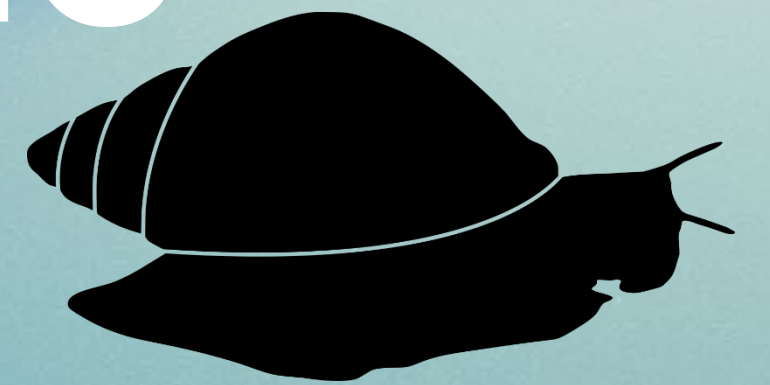
39617

TOTAL SPECIES  
IN THE GoM LIST



25364

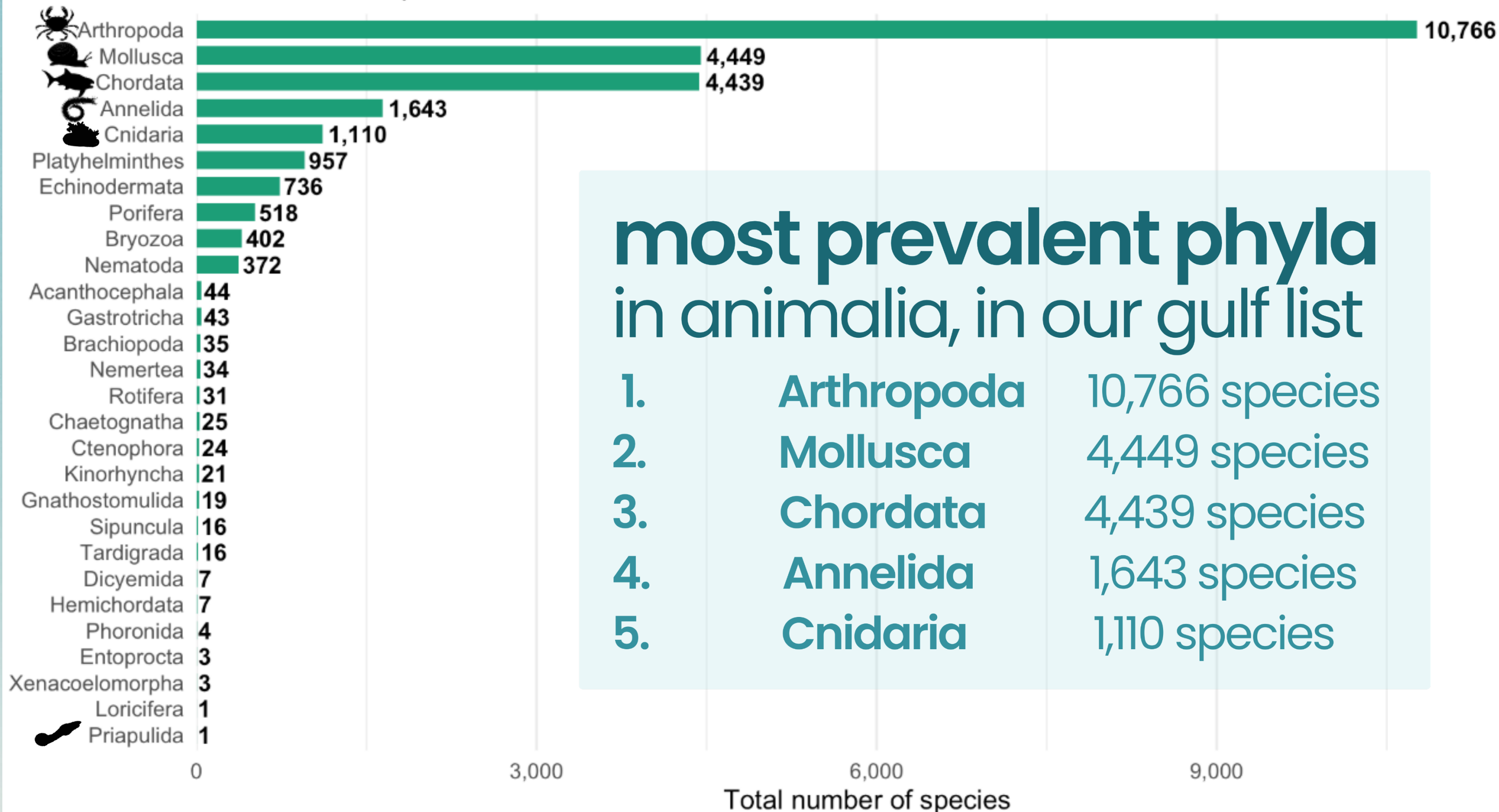
ANIMAL SPECIES



# Total Number of Species per Phylum

Data from GoM species list

## ANIMALIA



most prevalent phyla  
in animalia, in our gulf list

1. Arthropoda 10,766 species
2. Mollusca 4,449 species
3. Chordata 4,439 species
4. Annelida 1,643 species
5. Cnidaria 1,110 species

# STEPS TO SUCCESS

Compile Species Lists

Conduct Gap Analysis

# Gap Analysis

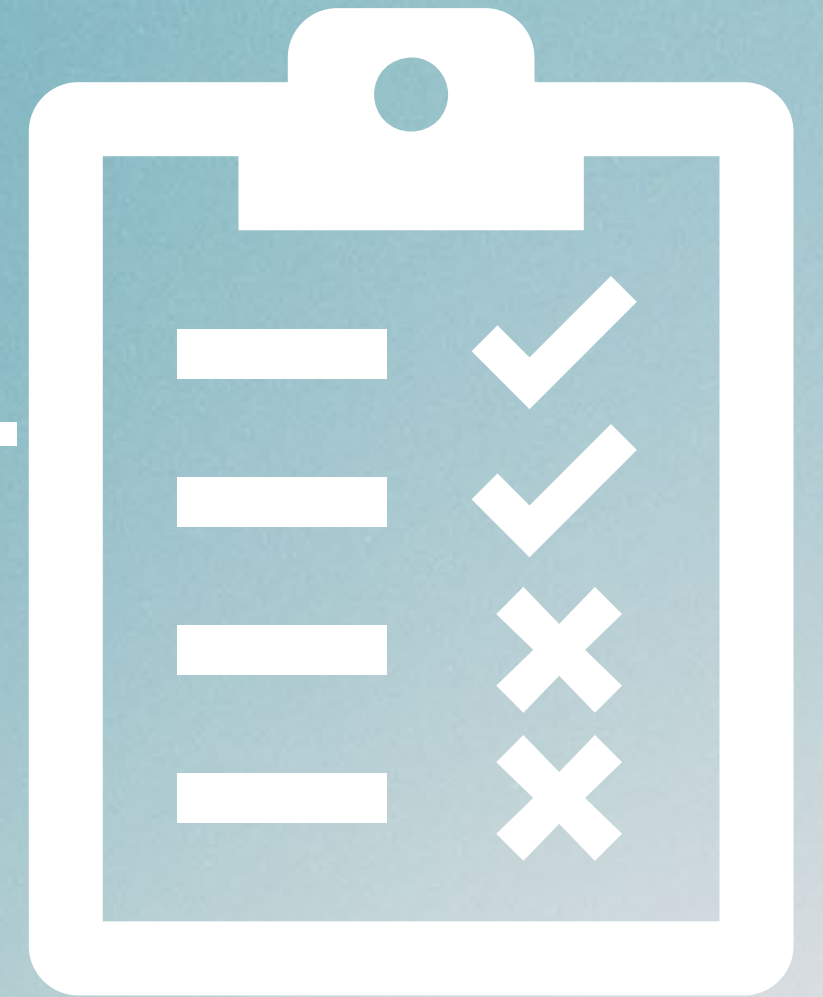
# LIST

# FIND MATCHES

# DATA



SPECIES SPECIES SPECIES

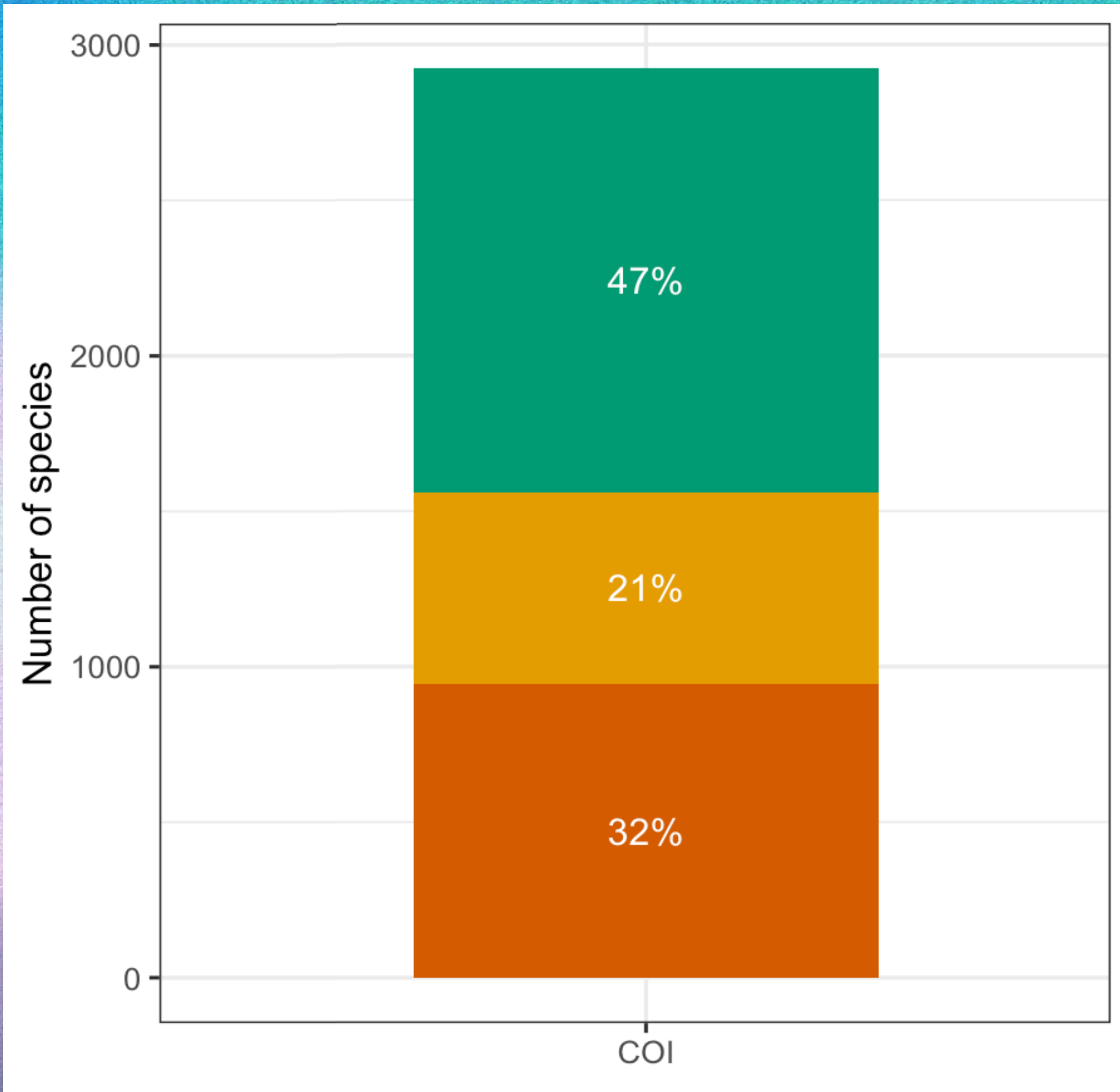


# DEFINING COI





**56.2%** of our  
animal species list is  
**MISSING COI barcodes**  
from the database

# **top six most abundant phyla** in Animalia % COI barcodes missing in GenBank per phyla



 Local reference

 Needs local reference

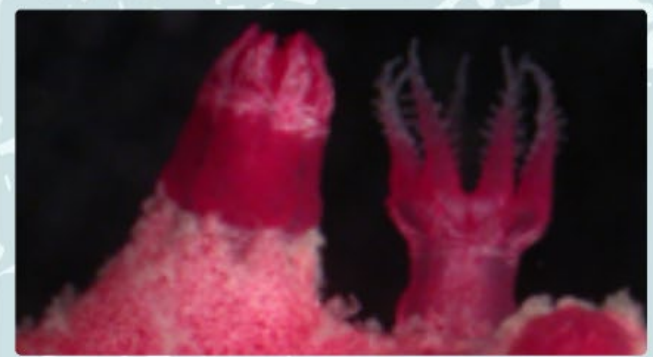
 No reference

# MOST WANTED

The most abundant Gulf species that have no entries in GenBank



**Atlantic Calico Scallop**  
*Argopecten gibbus*  
2,498 occurrences



**White Eye Sea Spray**  
*Thesea nivea*  
2,236 occurrences



**Atlantic Giant Cockle**  
*Dinocardium robustum*  
1,901 occurrences



**Clown Goby**  
*Microgobius gulosus*  
1,897 occurrences

# STEPS TO SUCCESS

- Compile Species Lists
- ▣ Conduct Gap Analysis

# LOOKING AHEAD

## Just the Beginning!

### Continuing Gap Analysis

Including further markers and target groups

### Creating a Regional Reference Library

# Growing the Network



## **connect**

Join a growing network  
of eDNA researchers



## **collaborate**

Form new partnerships across  
labs, institutions, and regions

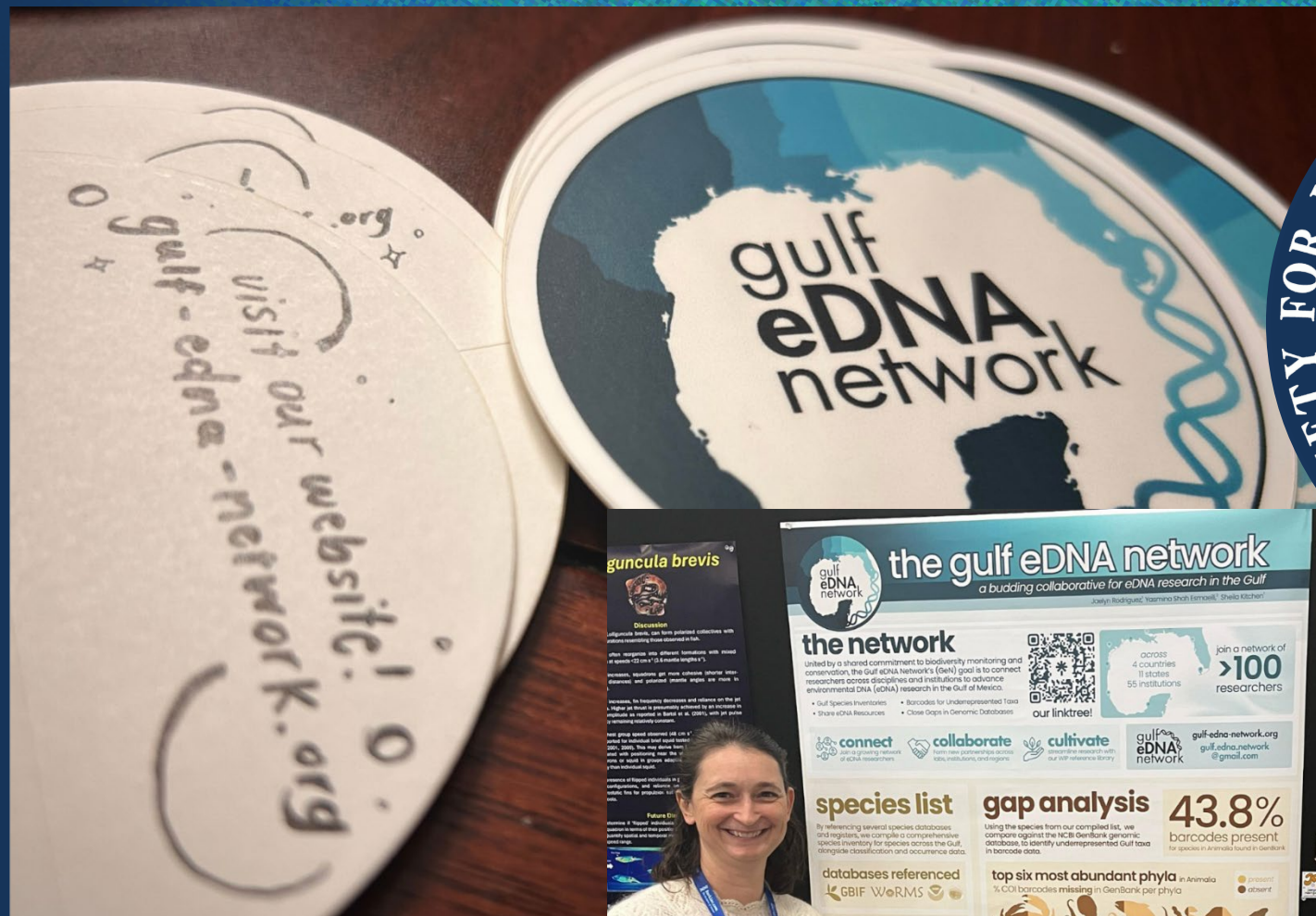


## **cultivate**

streamline research with  
our reference library



# CONNECTING



Gulf  
Con



**SICB**  
Gained 12  
Members!



Global eDNA  
Conference



# COLLABORATIONS

Expanding to Industry, Policy, and  
Government Organizations

Emerging Research  
Projects

BioBlitz

Applying for  
Grants

# COLLABORATE WITH US

## Join as a Member

Receive our newsletter  
and email updates

## Join Our Team

Be a part of our  
leadership team  
(PR needed!)

## Reach Out to Collab

Share species lists, sequences,  
and join projects

Taxonomist?  
Be a species list  
curator!



*across*  
4 countries  
11 states  
55 institutions

join a network of  
**>100**  
researchers



**gulf**  
**eDNA**  
network

[gulf-edna-network.org](http://gulf-edna-network.org)  
[gulf.edna.network@gmail.com](mailto:gulf.edna.network@gmail.com)



# THANK YOU!

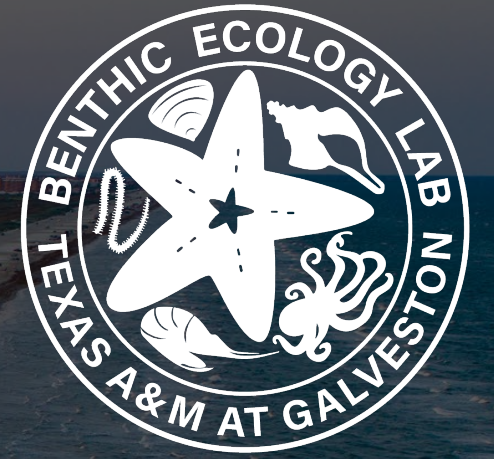
Texas Higher  
Education  
COORDINATING BOARD



**GALVESTON CAMPUS®**



Marine Science Institute  
The University of Texas at Austin



# Hidden life on Texas shores: using eDNA to reveal coastal biodiversity

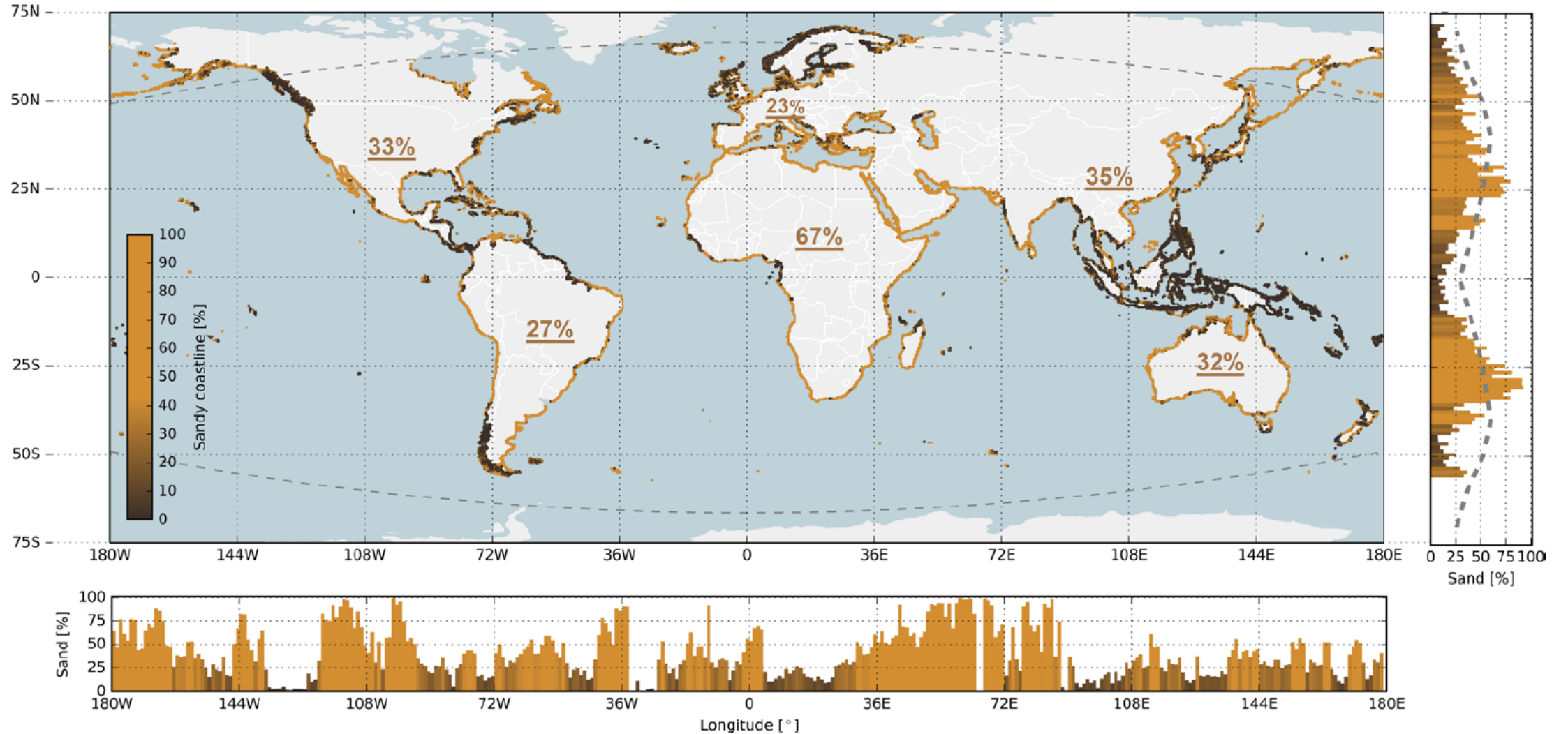
**Dr. Guilherme Corte**  
Texas A&M University at Galveston

**WHAT IS THE MOST  
WIDESPREAD COASTAL  
ECOSYSTEM IN THE WORLD?**





# Sandy beaches make up about 1/3 of the world's ice-free coastlines



**Figure 1.** Global distribution of sandy shorelines.

**WHICH COASTAL ECOSYSTEM  
IS MOST USED BY HUMANS?**

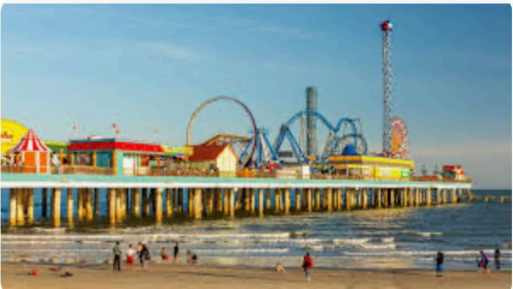


# SANDY BEACHES





- Texas beach
- Island texas
- Seawall
- Hotel
- Galveston seawall beach
- Houston
- Galveston hurricane
- Galveston attractions



Expedia Visit Galveston: 2026 Travel Guide for Galv...



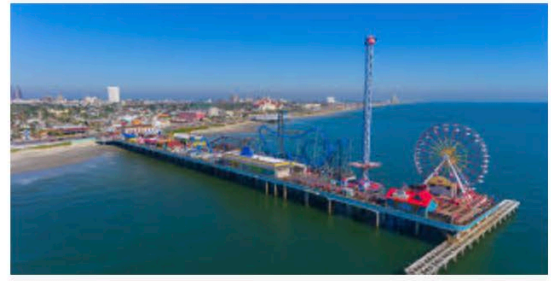
Sand `N Sea Properties Living in Galveston, TX: What to K...



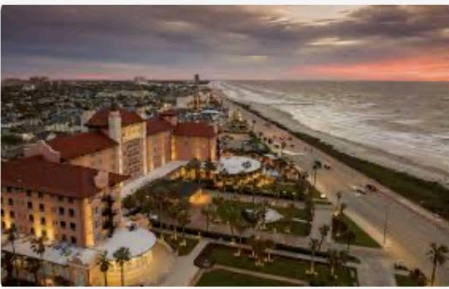
Travel Texas A Dozen Ways To Enjoy Two Days In G...



Texas State Historical Association Galveston County



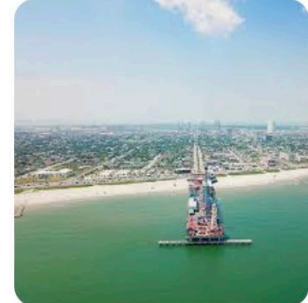
IHG Hotels & Resorts Hotel In Galveston, TX On The Beach | Holid...



Texas Monthly Galveston Is a Tourist Hot Spot Once...



Tripadvisor Galveston, TX: All You Must Know ...



Galveston GALVESTON.COM: Se...



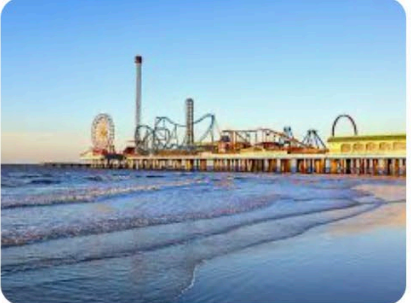
Tripadvisor THE 15 BEST Things to Do i...



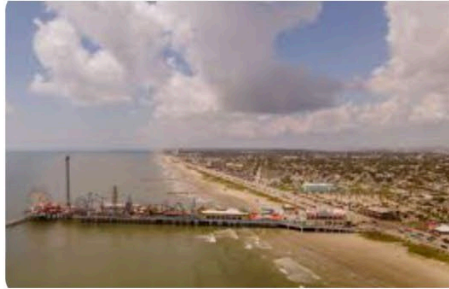
WB Wan Bridge Moving to Galveston, TX: Every...



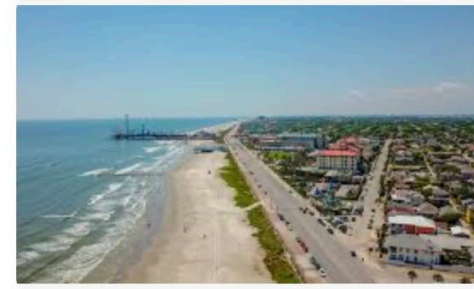
Travel + Leisure The Ultimate Travel Guide to Galve...



pod5.ca



Princess Cruises



Visit Galveston



Port of Galveston



TH Texas Highways



Galveston

### *2.3. Ecosystem services and sensitive features*

Sandy shores provide a wide range of ecosystem services, many of which are essential to support human uses of sandy coasts. The most important ecosystem services include: (1) sediment storage and transport; (2) wave dissipation and associated buffering against extreme events (storms, tsunamis); (3) dynamic response to sea-level rise (within limits); (4) breakdown of organic materials and pollutants; (5) water filtration and purification; (6) nutrient mineralisation and recycling; (7) water storage in dune aquifers and groundwater discharge through beaches; (8) maintenance of biodiversity and genetic resources; (9) nursery areas for juvenile fishes; (10) nesting sites for turtles and shorebirds, and rookeries for pinnipeds; (11) prey resources for birds and terrestrial wildlife; (12) scenic vistas and recreational opportunities; (13) bait and food organisms; and (14) functional links between terrestrial and marine environments in the coastal zone.

# The economic value of America's beaches

“There are about 3.4 billion visits to U.S. beaches annually. This is an enormous number of visits — more than 225% times greater than the combined annual attendance at all National Park properties from the Washington Monument to the Grand Canyon; state parks; all amusement-park attractions such as Disney World; all professional and collegiate football, basketball, and baseball games; cruises; and events of the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing.”



James R. Houston

*U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center*

# The economic value of America's beaches

“Beach tourists spend \$240 billion annually, more than the value of all crops grown in America or oil exported by Saudi Arabia. They generate an economic output of \$520 billion.”



James R. Houston  
*U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center*

# Beaches: The Overlooked Engine of the American Economy

This country's best conservation investment is hidden in plain sight



Photo: Jeremiah Klein



**Bring Back Our Beaches**

Oct 23rd, 2025. Updated 4 months ago.

**SANDY BEACHES ARE AWESOME!!**



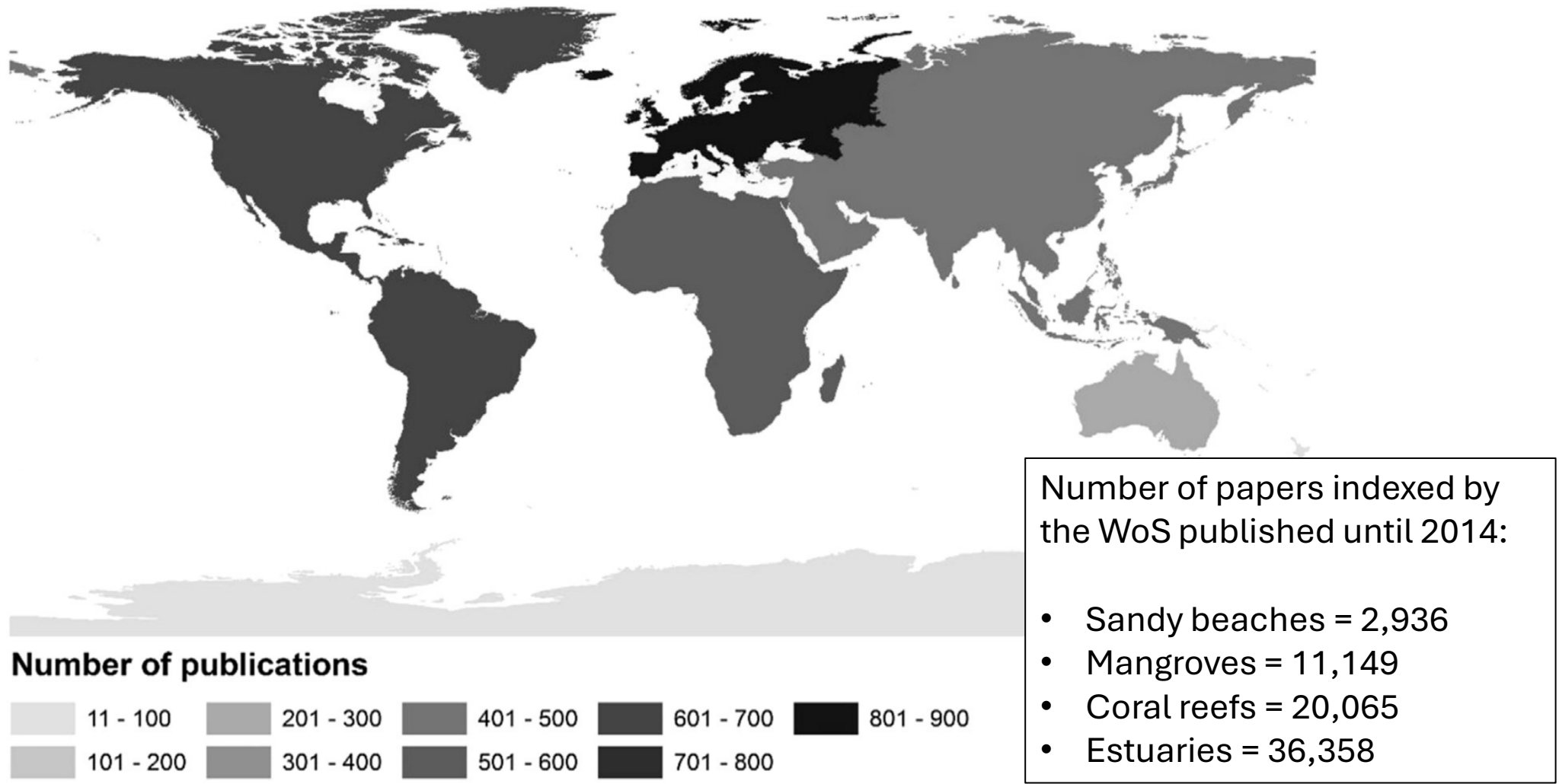
**WHICH COASTAL ECOSYSTEM  
IS THE LEAST STUDIED?**



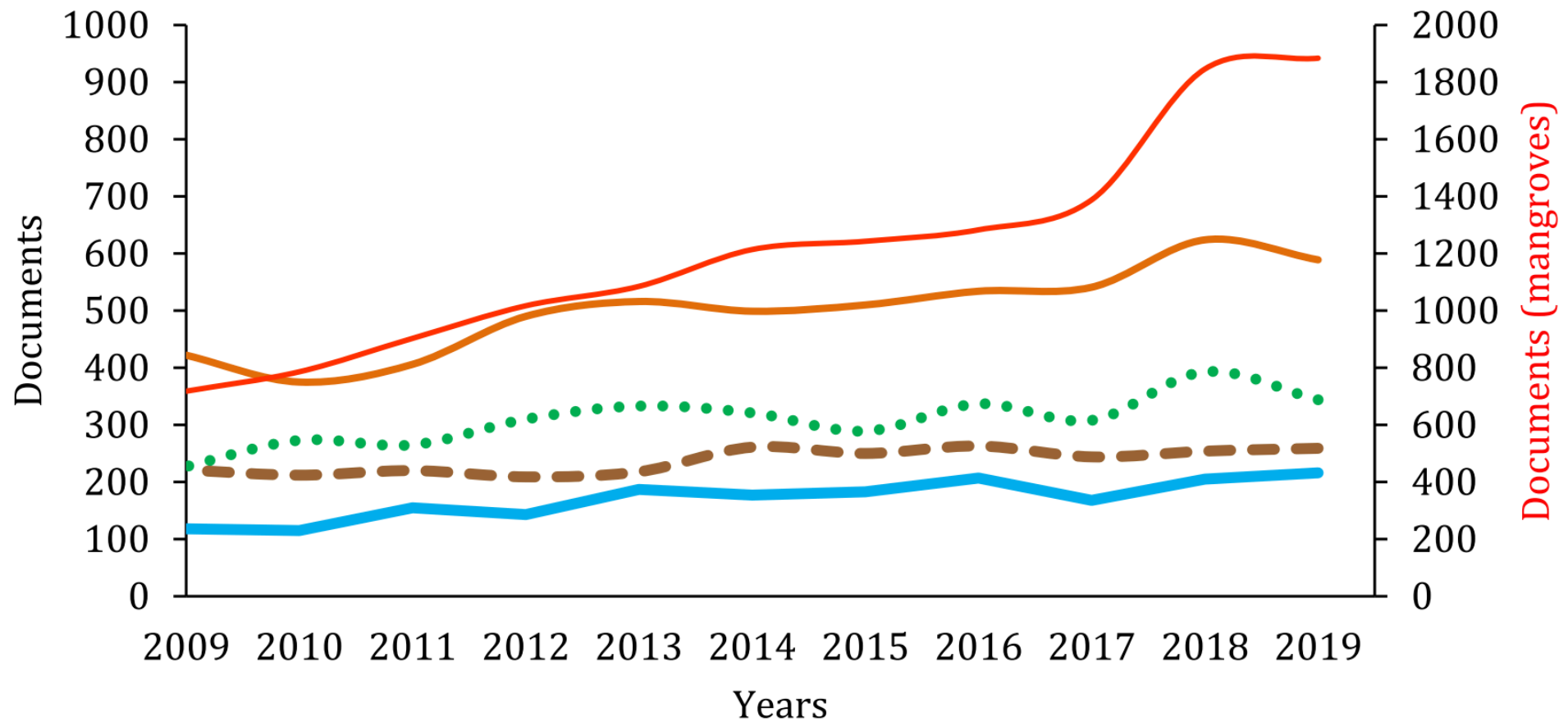
# SANDY BEACHES ARE UNDERSTUDIED



# UNDERSTUDIED ECOSYSTEMS



**Fig. 5.** Distribution of field-based studies on sandy beaches by continent, with darker shades indicating a greater number of studies.



— saltmarshes ••••• tidal flats — sandy beaches - - - rocky shores — mangroves

Fig. 1. The annual number of scientific articles mentioning sandy beaches registered in Scopus from 2009 to 2019. The number of publications related to other intertidal environments is also shown.

An aerial photograph of a sandy beach meeting turquoise water. The beach is on the left, and the water is on the right. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, and the sand is a light beige. The waves are breaking gently onto the shore.

# **WHY ARE SANDY BEACH ECOSYSTEMS OVERLOOKED?**



# Why are sandy beach ecosystems overlooked?

1. They are often perceived as biological deserts.
2. They are difficult to study.



DESERTS?





*Charadrius melodus* (Piping plover)



Disney · PIXAR

# pipper



*Scolelepis squamata*



*Donax hanleyanus*



*Ocypode* sp.



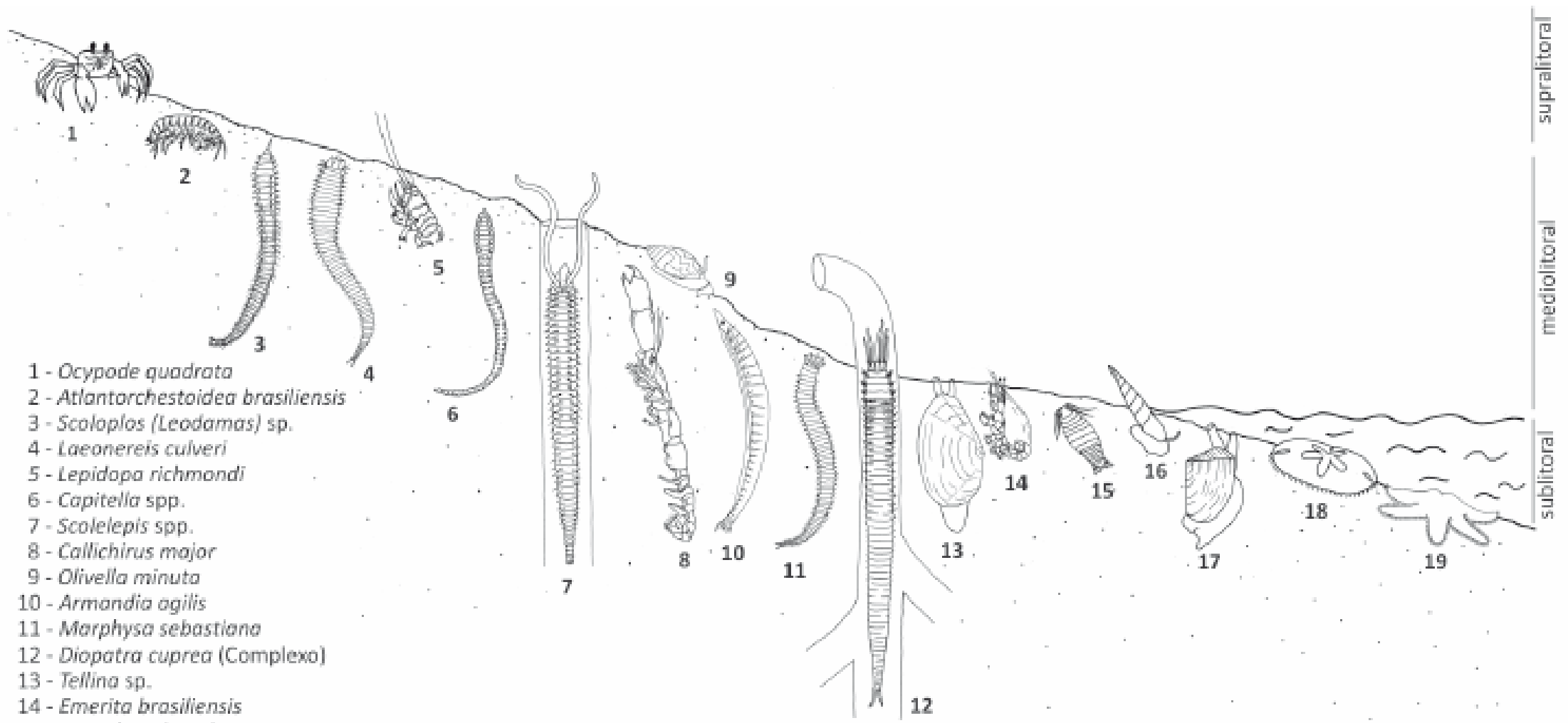
*Glycinde multident*



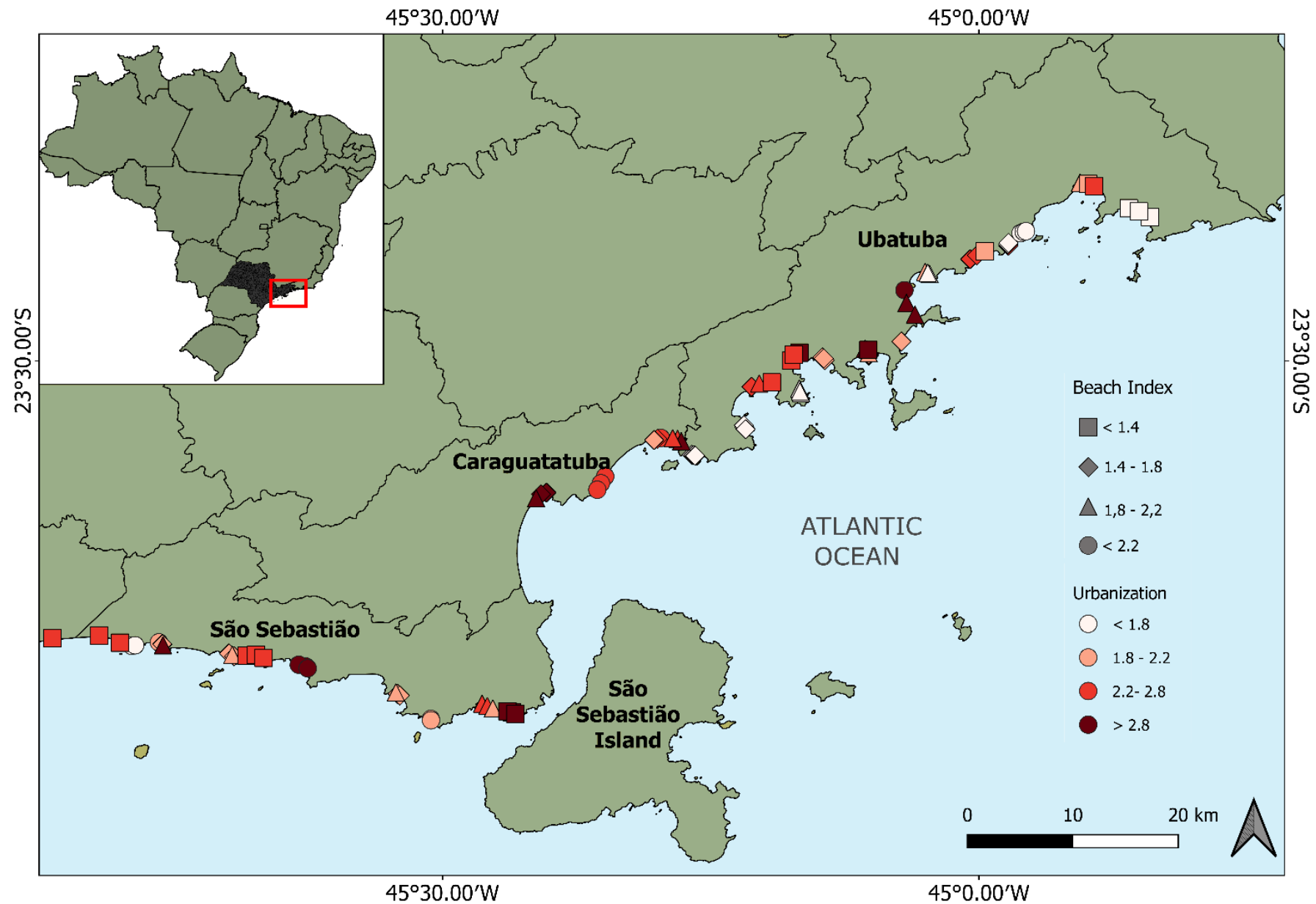
*Emerita brasiliensis*



*Melitta quinquiesperforata*



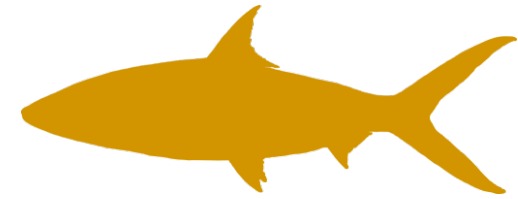
- 1 - *Ocypode quadrata*
- 2 - *Atlantorchestoidea brasiliensis*
- 3 - *Scoloplos (Leodamas) sp.*
- 4 - *Laeonereis culveri*
- 5 - *Lepidopa richmandi*
- 6 - *Capitella spp.*
- 7 - *Scolelepis spp.*
- 8 - *Callichirus major*
- 9 - *Olivella minuta*
- 10 - *Armandia agilis*
- 11 - *Morphyssa sebastiana*
- 12 - *Diopatra cuprea (Complexo)*
- 13 - *Tellina sp.*
- 14 - *Emerita brasiliensis*
- 15 - *Excirrolana braziliensis*
- 16 - *Hastula cinerea*
- 17 - *Donax hanleyanus*
- 18 - *Mellita quinquiesperforata*
- 19 - *Astrapecten brasiliensis*





**Macrobenthos**  
5017 individuals  
172 species

## **Fish**



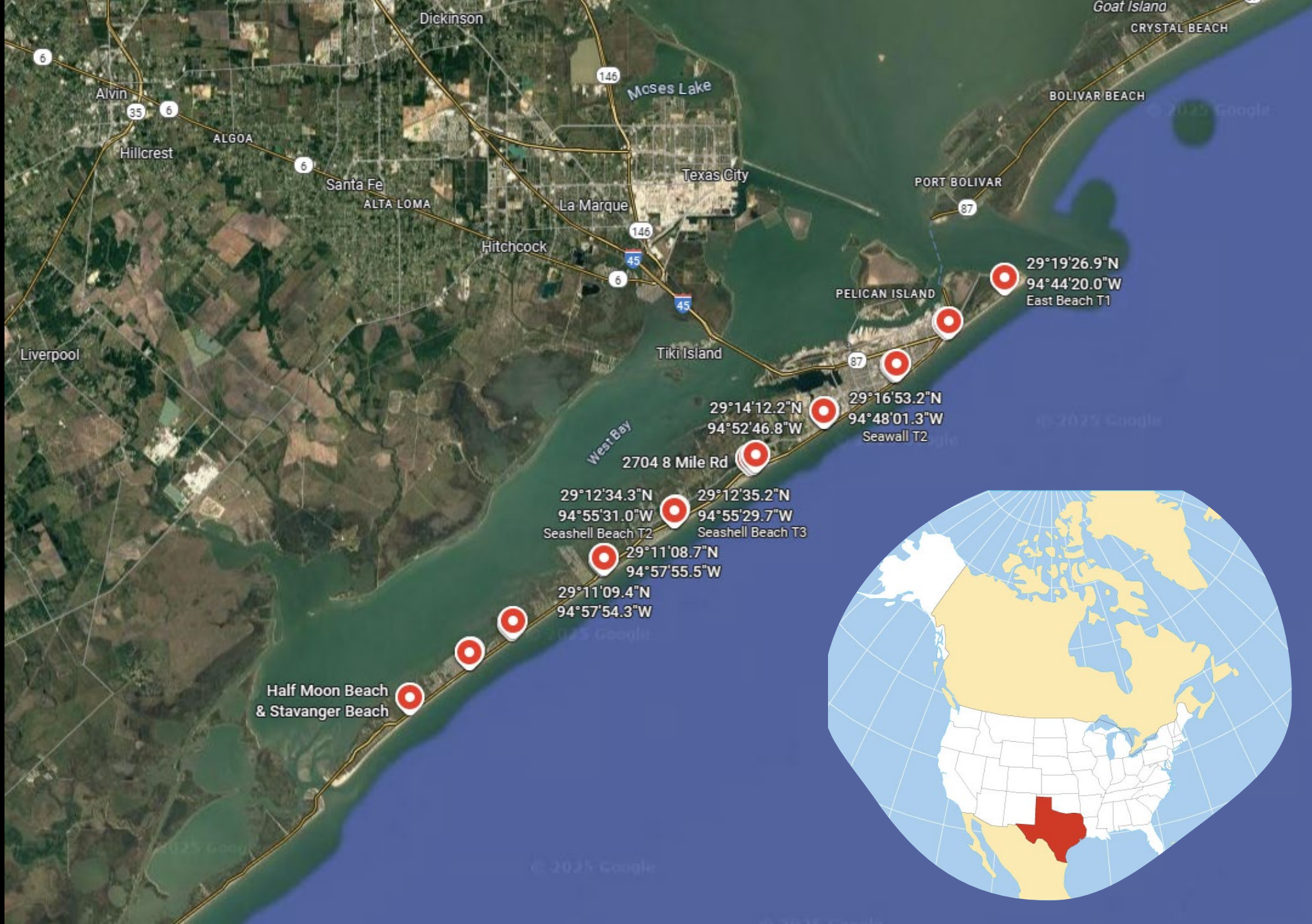
8766 individuals  
64 species



# BENTHIC ECOLOGY LAB

Texas A&M at Galveston





# DESERTS?

Polychaeta 12111



Crustacea 6756



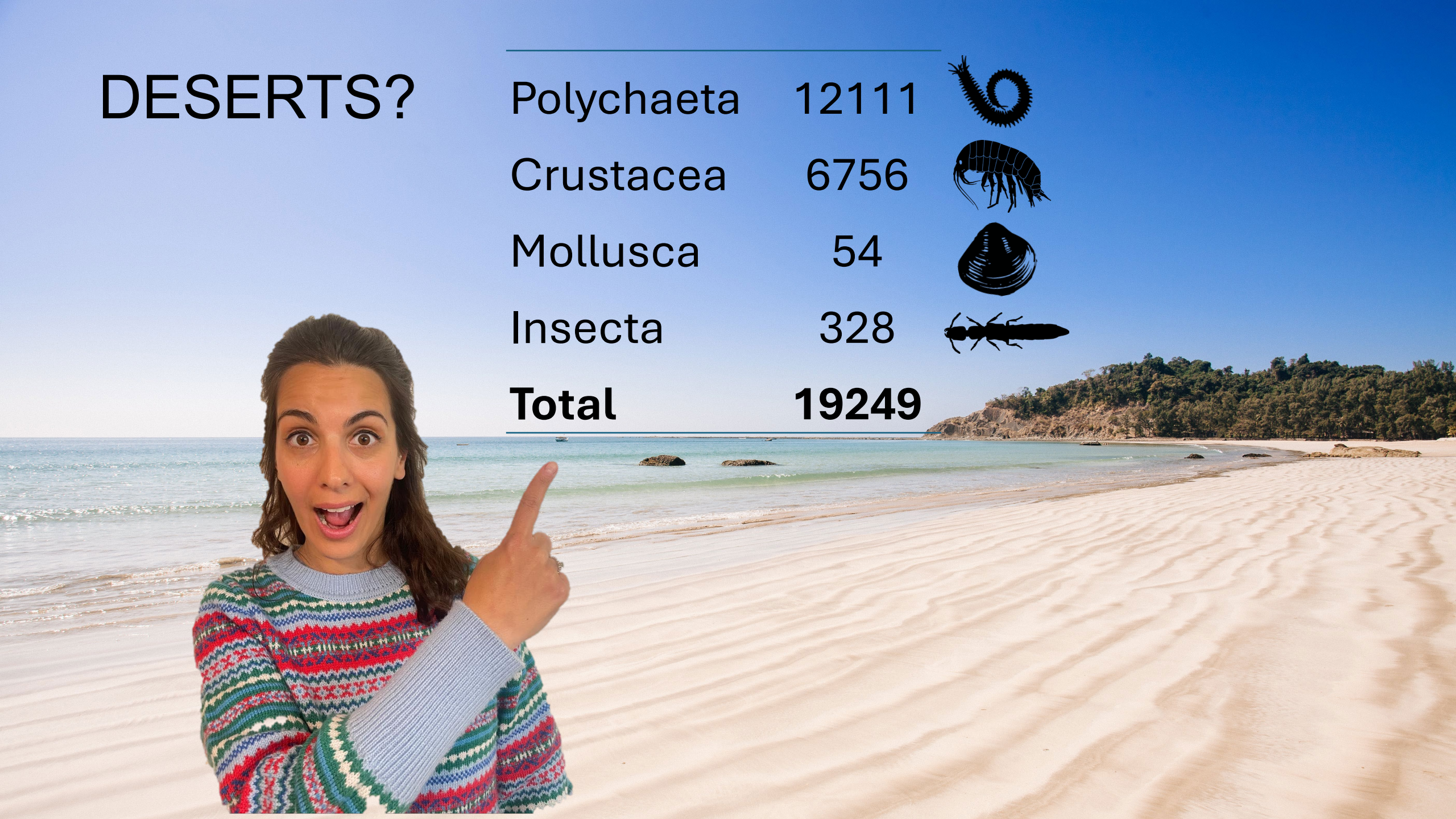
Mollusca 54



Insecta 328



**Total 19249**



# Why are sandy beach ecosystems overlooked?

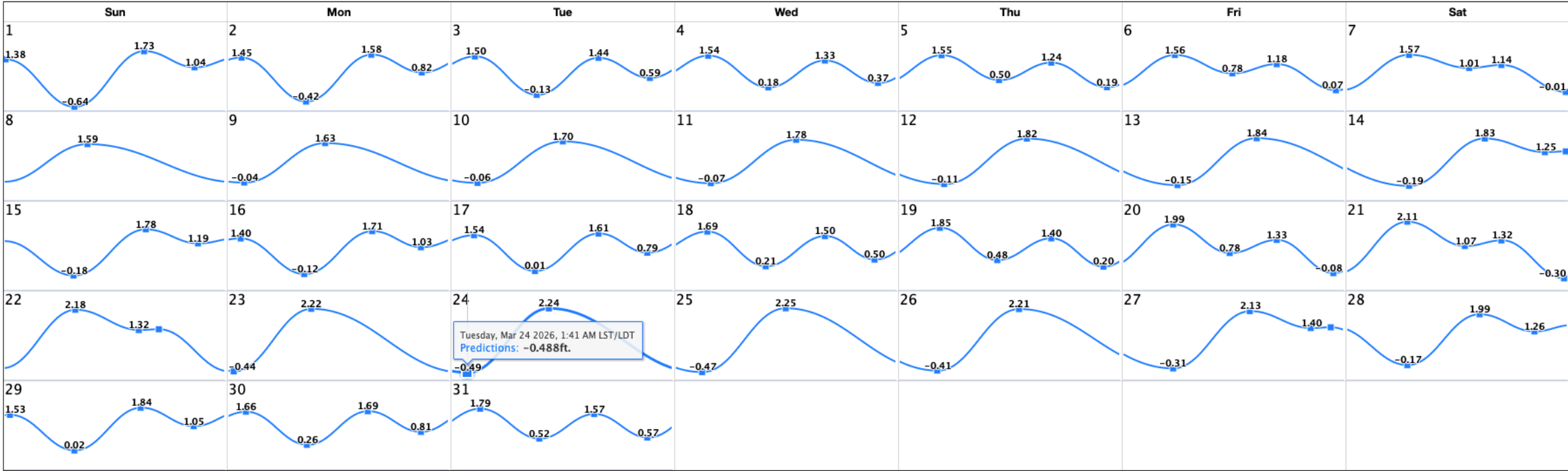
- ~~1. They are often perceived as biological deserts.~~
2. They are difficult to study.



# TIME CONSTRAINTS



NOAA/NOS/CO-OPS  
Tide Predictions at 8771510 Galveston Pleasure Pier TX  
March 2026 Monthly Calendar View

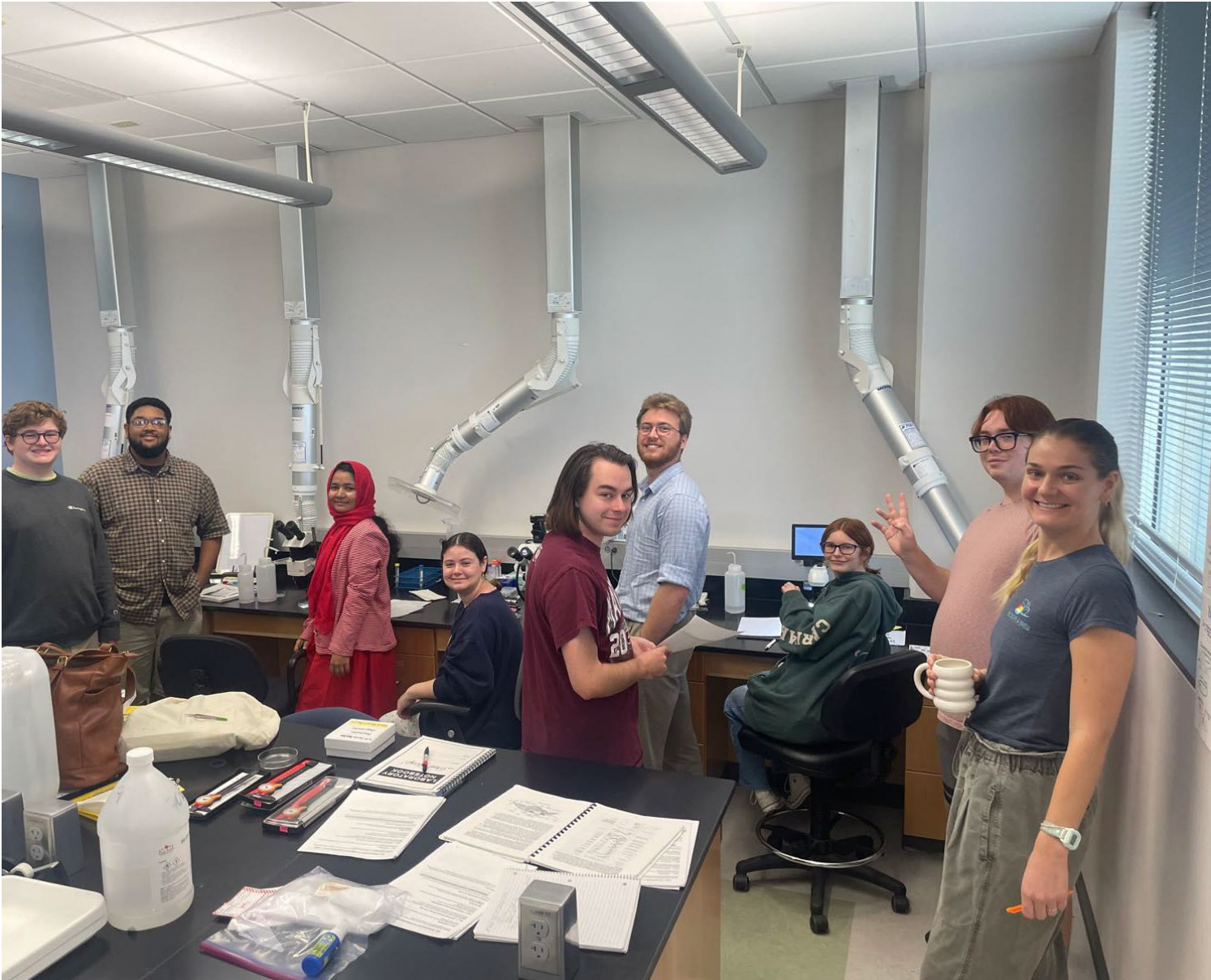


# PHYSICALLY DEMANDING TO STUDY





# REQUIRES SPECIALIZED TAXONOMIC EXPERTISE





**HOW CAN THESE CHALLENGES  
BE MINIMIZED?**



# eDNA





# TIME CONSTRAINTS



Home Products and Products News Education and Outreach Search

Home / Products / NOAA Tide Predictions / 8771510 Galveston Pier

Station Info Tides/Water Levels Sea Level/Coastal Flooding Meteorology

Back to Station Listing User Guide

Printer View Click Here for Annual Published Tide Tables



## PHYSICALLY DEMANDING TO STUDY



**NON-EXTRACTIVE**



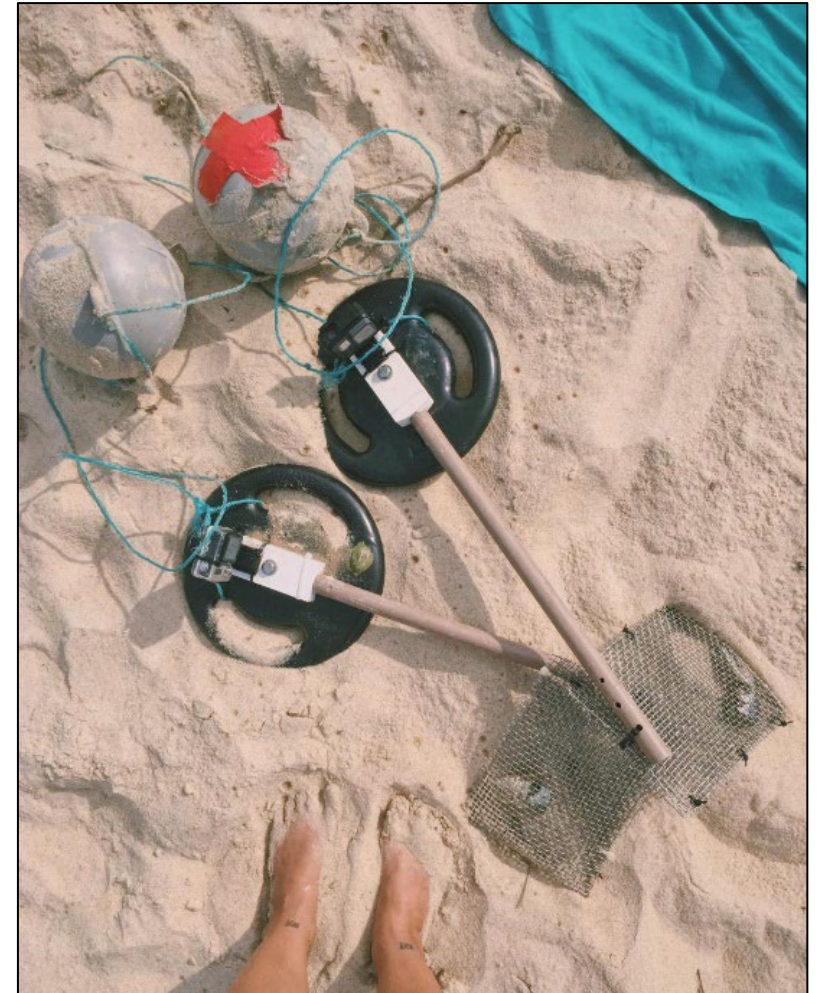
**BUT DOES eDNA REALLY  
WORK?**



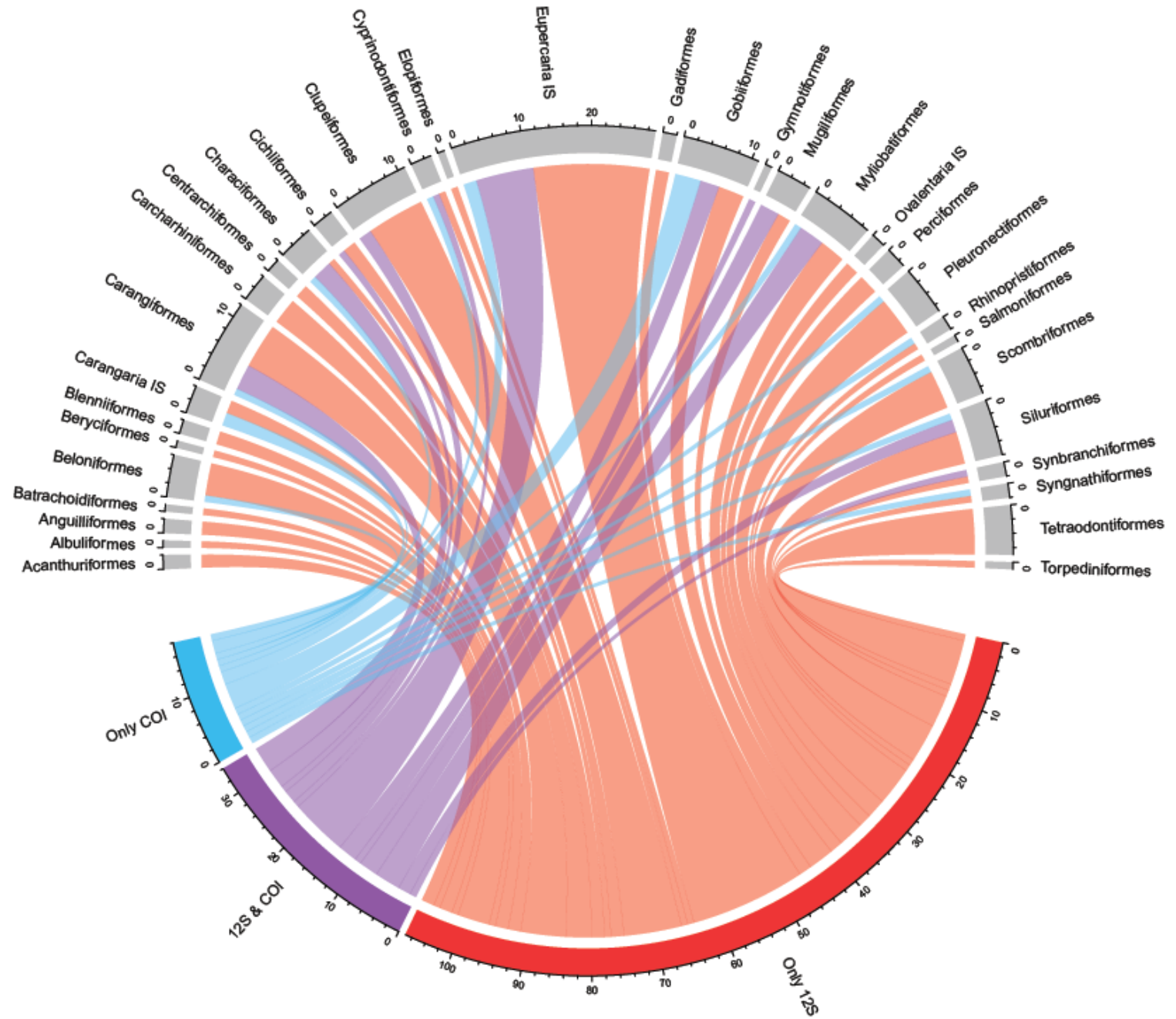
## Seine net



## Surf-BRUVs



Fishes:  
159 species  
141 using 12S  
52 using COI  
34 both markers



# PATH FORWARD





**Macrobenthos**

**Fish**

# ECOSSYSTEM PROCESSES



# BEACH NOURISHMENT



# Texas A&M Expert: Storms Worsening State's Beach Erosion Problem

Recent numerous storms and hurricanes have eaten away much of the state's 367-mile coastline

---

Oct 27, 2020 | By Keith Randall, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications



An estimated 64 percent of the Texas coast is eroding at an average rate of six feet per year.

Search and Zoom to Features

Zoom to State/County

AK - All Counties -

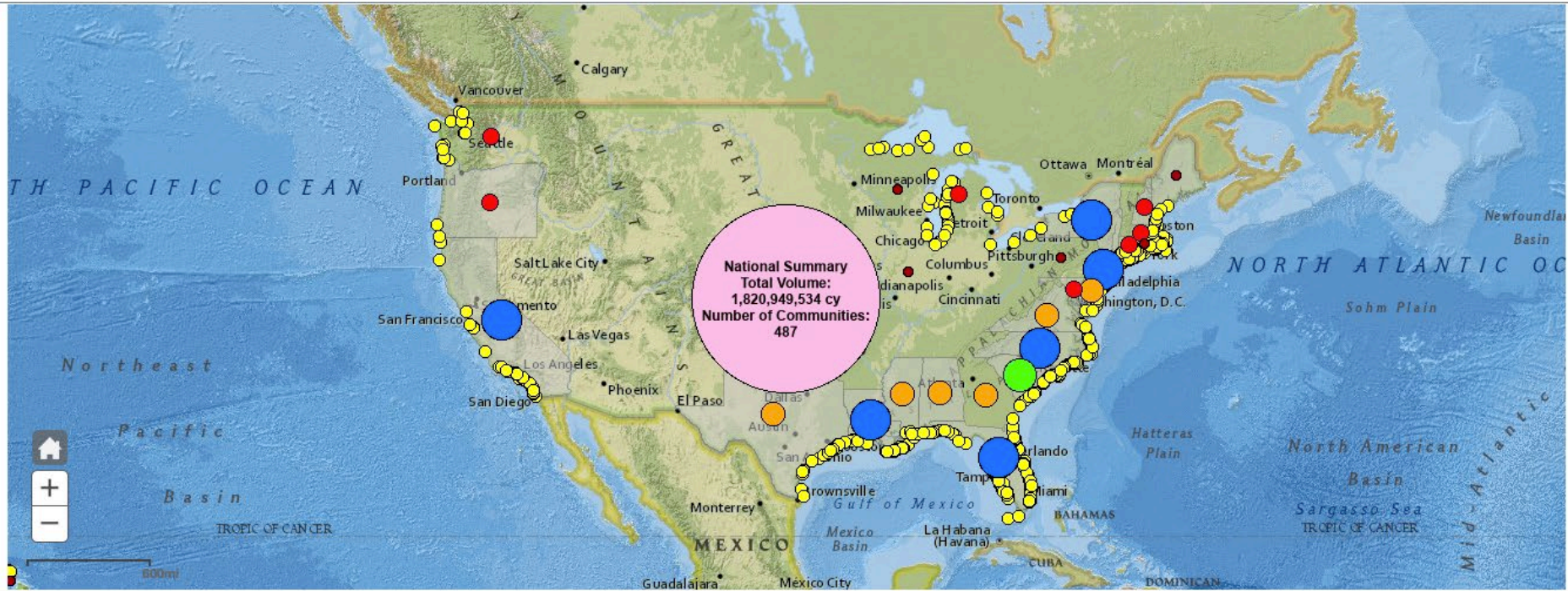
USACE Navigation Sediment Placement

**Legend:**

- Community Locations
- Nourishment Volume:**
- By State (MCY):**
  - <1.5
  - 1.5 to <15
  - 15 to <50
  - 50 to <100
  - 100 to <700
  - >700
- By Project (cy):**
  - Non-USACE Volume
  - USACE Volume
  - Unknown Volume

Switch Basemap

Enter Password to Export Data



**Nationwide** [AK](#) [AL](#) [CA](#) [CT](#) [DE](#) [FL](#) [GA](#) [HI](#) [IL](#) [IN](#) [LA](#) [MA](#) [ME](#) [MD](#) [MI](#) [MS](#) [NC](#) [NH](#) [NJ](#) [NY](#) [OH](#) [OR](#) [PA](#) [RI](#) [SC](#) [TX](#) [VA](#) [WA](#) [WI](#)

State	Number of Communities	Number of Nourishment Events	Oldest Event	Newest Event	Known Total Cost	Total Volume (cy)	Known Length (Miles)
FL	83	956	1935	2025	\$2,309,244,451	419,094,996	298.2
CA	42	557	1927	2024	\$438,376,777	372,188,122	58.4
MA	45	390	1259	2025	\$75,642,742	13,203,168	23.0
NC	32	371	1939	2024	\$1,258,093,339	182,769,992	102.6
MI	30	337	1979	2024	\$86,871,411	10,497,205	2.9
Totals	487	4147			\$9,998,299,033	1,820,949,534	1,673.8



GULF COAST

# Massive restoration project closes popular Gulf Coast beach for months

Imagine enough sand to fill one-eighth of New Orleans' Superdome

Bulldozers work on a previous beach restoration project along Galveston's West End, near Dellanera RV Park, in December 2014.  
James Nielsen/Houston Chronicle/Getty Images

By **Chris Gray**, *Gulf Coast Reporter* Oct 7, 2025







Beach Town Tours

ANDERSON WAYS

Sweetwater Lake

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Galveston West-S...

Seawall Blvd

Courtyard by Marriott Galveston Island

Galveston Island RV Park  
Top rated

Stella Mare RV Resort

Dryer Vent Cleaning Galveston

 Sunny Beach  
Recently viewed

**CONTROL**

Stewart Rd

Holiday Inn Club Vacations Galveston Bea...

 Public Beach Access #10 Galveston

**NOURISHMENT**

Laffite's Cove Nature Society

Bay Side Campsite  
Top rated

3005

 Sea Shell Beach - Pocket Park #3  
Recently viewed

**CONTROL**

Palm Bay Galveston

West Beach

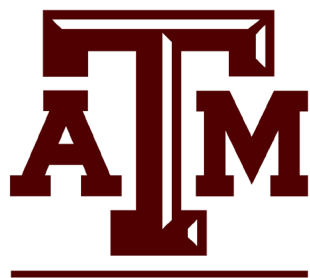
© 2026 Google

© 2026 Google

# RECONSTRUCT FOOD WEBS



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
GALVESTON CAMPUS®**



# Sandy beach social–ecological systems at risk: regime shifts, collapses, and governance challenges



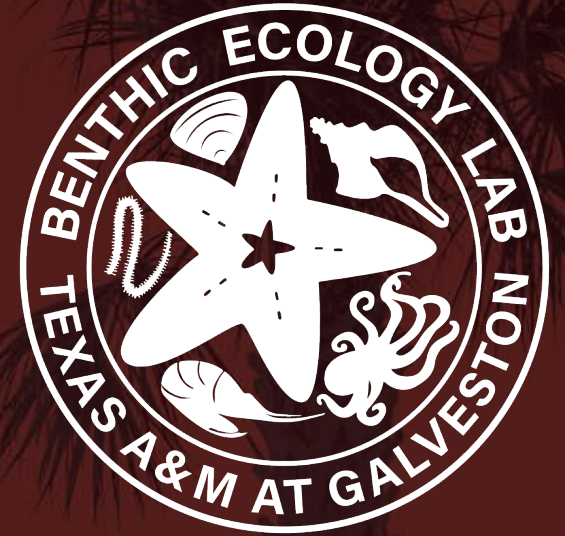
“Pressures will increase the likelihood of social–ecological collapses and regime shifts, such that beaches will sustain neither the original ecosystem function nor the related services and societal goods and benefits that they provide.”

# Sandy beach social–ecological systems at risk: regime shifts, collapses, and governance challenges



“Pressures will increase the likelihood of social–ecological collapses and regime shifts, such that beaches will sustain neither the original ecosystem function nor the related services and societal goods and benefits that they provide (...)

Most people want a beach, but few recognize it as an ecosystem at risk.”



Dr. Guilherme Corte  
Benthic Ecology Lab  
[corte@tamug.edu](mailto:corte@tamug.edu)